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A Big Russian Turnout To Deliver a Message

Communists and Nationalists Lead In Early Results From the Far East

MOSCOW — Preliminary results from Russia's Far East put the Communist Party ahead with 20.9 percent of the vote and the extreme nationalist Liberal Democratic Party second with 16.2 percent in parliamentary elections on Sunday.

The results, for 1 percent of the Russian electorate, were given by the Central Election Commission.

The liberal Yabloko bloc ran third with 7 percent, the centrist Women of Russia had 6 percent, and the government party, Our Home Is Russia, 5.7 percent.

Russian television channels said that although preliminary polls indicated that the Communists were leading, pro-reform parties had a generous share of the vote. Final results were not expected until Monday at the earliest.

As the last polls closed, the election commission estimated that more than 60 percent of the electorate cast ballots, well above expectations. A higher turnout was expected to boost the chances of pro-reform parties.

Communists and nationalists who want to turn back President Boris Yeltsin's free-market reforms were expected to score big in the race for the State Duma, the lower house. They were riding a wave of anger and despair in a country where life remains bleak and people can now complain about it.

Russia's Choice, one of the pro-reform groups, said its polls indicated centrist and moderate parties taking up to half the vote in many areas.

The Far East, where some areas are 10 time zones ahead of Moscow, was the first to vote in the elections to the State Duma.

A final figure on the turnout was not

immediately known, but the 25 percent minimum to make the elections valid was easily reached. The election commission chief, Nikolai Ryabov, said the figures were from 220 polling stations out of a total of 3,000 in the Far East. He said the picture could change considerably as votes were still being counted.

The poll pitted divided liberal forces and the government party against the Communists, who want to reverse reforms partly and recreate, voluntarily, the Soviet Union.

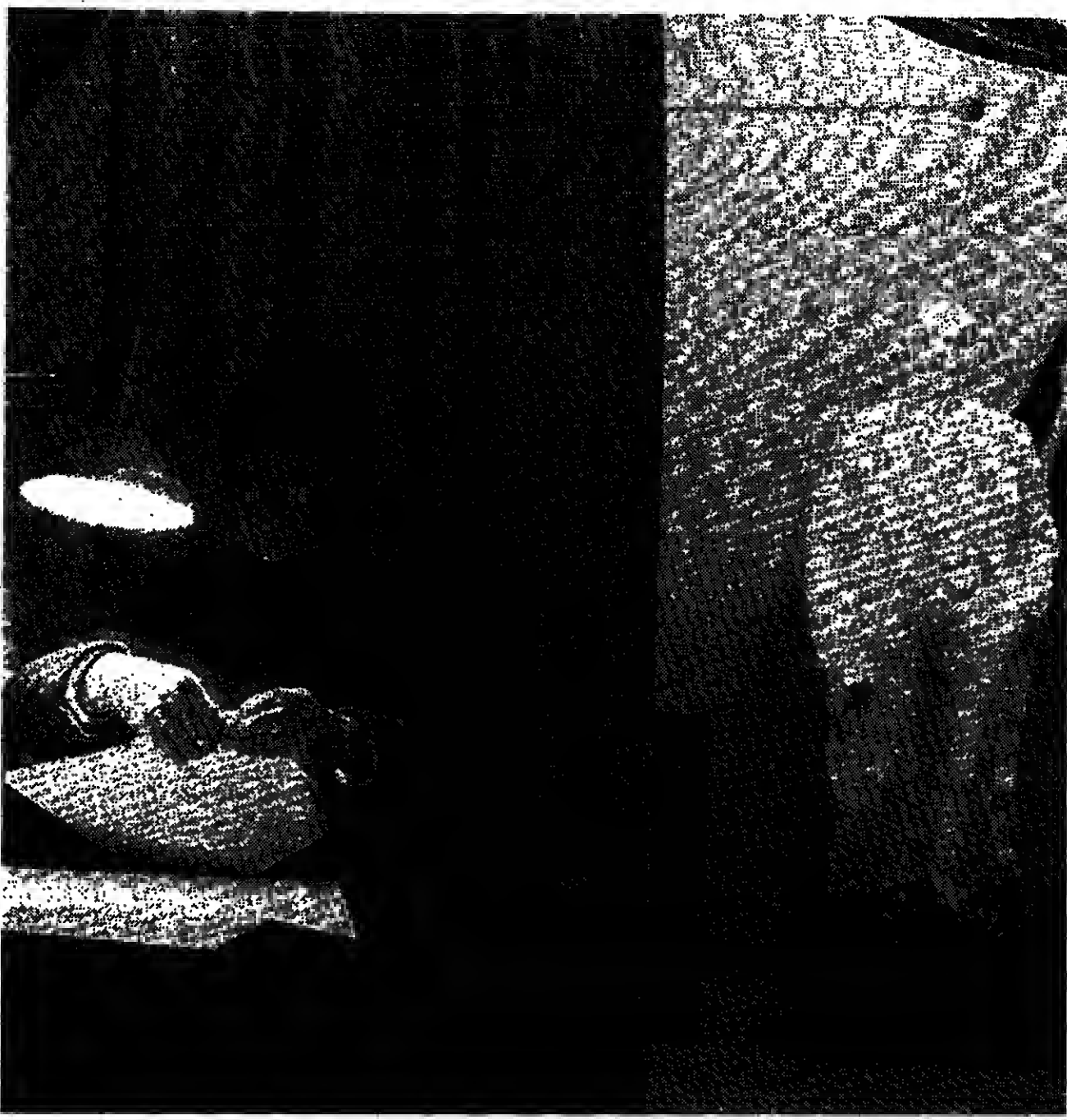
Nationalist groups were also expected to capitalize on discontent with poverty and crime and a widespread nostalgia for Russia's great-power past.

In the last parliamentary election in 1993, Vladimir Zhirinovskiy's Liberal Democratic Party finished first in all 12 Far Eastern regions. It was not immediately clear whether the Communists had won in each of the 12 regions, but the figures given so far represented a considerable swing to them.

But the high turnout also could mean that undecided and apathetic voters were galvanized to react in an effort to stave off the anticipated Communist comeback.

Mr. Yeltsin, voting in a sanatorium outside Moscow, said market reforms would stay on course regardless of who won election to the State Duma. Asked if a Communist comeback was possible, Mr. Yeltsin growled, "No, and no again."

But on Russia's volatile southern rim, there was little thought of voting. Russian troops in rebel Chechnya clashed with separatists in a fourth day of fighting in which dozens have been killed. Rebel



An elderly Russian woman folding her parliamentary ballot in a Moscow voting booth Sunday as Lenin looks on.

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Austria Votes To Spurn a Sharp Turn To the Right

Social Democrats Win As Nation Rejects Call To Curb Immigration

By Stephen Kinzer
New York Times Service

VIENNA — In voting for a new Parliament, Austrians refused to take the sharp right turn on Sunday that the anti-immigration leader Jörg Haider had urged upon them. Mr. Haider finished with 22.3 percent of the votes, slightly less than he won in the last parliamentary election 14 months ago.

Chancellor Franz Vranitzky's center-left Social Democratic Party finished a strong first, meaning that Mr. Vranitzky, who has led Austria for nearly a decade, will almost certainly remain in office. With nearly all the votes counted, the Social Democrats had 38.2 percent of the vote, up 3.3 percent from last year's result.

Mr. Vranitzky's campaign started slowly, but he appeared to pick up support in the closing days. The slogan on his posters was, "Our Austria Is Too Precious For Experiments," and many voters apparently decided that keeping him in office would preserve a measure of stability as the country adjusts to an era of austerity.

"Economic and budget issues dominated the beginning of the campaign, but in the last couple of weeks those issues were overtaken by the question of whether country wanted a radical change in direction," Wolfgang Bachmayer, a leading public-opinion researcher, said on the national ORF television network.

"Recent events in France led many voters to fear that a political change would lead to serious upheaval," he said. "They didn't want that here."

Mr. Haider's showing was a serious blow to his ambition to win the chancellor's job by 1998, and suggested that support for his Freedom Party, which had been rising steadily for nearly a decade, has reached a peak.

Mr. Haider, whose father was a member of the Nazi party, may have been hurt by this weekend's discovery of a videotape made in October that showed him addressing a meeting of veterans of the Nazi SS. Among the guests was Gudrun Burwitz, daughter of Heinrich Himmler, who was one of Hitler's most senior associates.

In the tape, which was broadcast on German television and widely reported in Austrian newspapers, Mr. Haider calls the veterans "dear friends" and praises them as "upstanding citizens who still have

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Winners (Rail Unions) and Losers (Juppé) in French Strike

By Joseph Fitchett
International Herald Tribune

PARIS — As transport and other public services resumed around France and the government prepared for fresh labor talks, the crippling strikes seemed to have some clear initial results: a victory for unionized railroad workers and a loss of credibility for Prime Minister Alain Juppé.

More broadly, the immediate impact has been lost business growth and a blow to confidence that is likely to slow consumer spending and discourage foreign investors. Such economic aftershocks would reduce the government's room to maneuver as it seeks new compromises to cut budget

deficits and keep France on target to join Europe's planned single currency.

Earlier, the government had refused union demands to widen the agenda for talks Thursday with labor leaders to in-

NEWS ANALYSIS

clude the disputed plan for overhauling the nation's social security system.

But on Sunday, Mr. Juppé, sounding subdued and even chastened in a television interview, said that he was open to negotiations on how to make his proposed changes in health care and retirement benefits, and he said that he was resigned to letting workers in the state-owned railroads

keep advantageous pension arrangements.

With Mr. Juppé backing away from his effort to reorganize the state rail system, train service slowly returned in Paris and the rest of France. (Page 5)

Even though he can claim to have salvaged welfare change by acceding to the rail unions, Mr. Juppé has acquired an image of obstinacy, and even some of his political allies suggest that he could have headed off disaster by making the concessions earlier — or, better still, not overloading the political situation by tackling the railroads and welfare simultaneously.

Now Mr. Juppé will have to contend with a railroad union elated by its biggest victory in years. While the government has

a large parliamentary majority, the scope of the upheaval has changed the context of debate about economic changes.

Although the stoppages were confined to public sector companies, many private sector employees struck by proxy in voicing support or marching.

Indeed, the public's attitude is the major long-term question that has emerged from France's nearly monthlong social convulsion. Will the strikes usher in more conciliatory approaches and improve the way changes are managed? Or has the conflict polarized the country and its elites in a way that will cripple future initiatives?

The strikers claim to speak for French people frustrated by arrogant management

in business and in politics, with leaders setting policies with little consultation and then expecting compliance. That method of operation, although Mr. Juppé denies it, fits his style.

The outpouring of resentment may foster new cohesiveness, optimists say, citing how the French who stayed on the job cooperated to overcome the hardships brought on by the strike. Even the tolerance for the strikers' punishing tactics suggested an uncharacteristic sense in France of being in the same boat.

This approach is echoed by Nicole Notat, head of the Democratic Confederation

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'A New Game,' But Assad Still Holds the Cards

By Serge Schmemmann
New York Times Service

JERUSALEM — While the Israelis and Americans were clearly jubilant over their success in getting Syria back to a negotiating table, the basic question remained the same: Was President Hafez Assad really ready to deal?

In the Israeli-American view, he had to be. His former Soviet backers were gone,

NEWS ANALYSIS

Israel had made peace with the Egyptians, Jordanians and Palestinians, and the Israelis had a new leader who was proclaiming his fighting for the peace from every podium and hinting that it could well include the whole of the Golan Heights and an endorsement of Syria's hegemony in Lebanon.

But Mr. Assad recently celebrated 25 years in power, and all of them have been in a state of active or dormant conflict with Israel. He had rebuffed many an invitation to the peace table before — twice in the past year alone.

Though Israeli newspapers all greeted the announcement Saturday by Secretary of State Warren M. Christopher that new talks between Jerusalem and Damascus would start Dec. 27, one Israeli commentator

AGENDA



DOWN AND DONE — Mike Tyson standing over Buster Mathis Jr. after knocking him out in the third round of their bout in Philadelphia. Page 18.

Pope May Visit Holy Land Soon

JERUSALEM (AFP) — Pope John Paul II is considering making his first visit to Israel soon, the Vatican foreign minister said here Sunday.

"I believe that the date for this pilgrimage to the holy sites is near," Archbishop Jean-Louis Tauran told journalists on the first day of a four-day visit.

Archbishop Tauran, the highest level Vatican official to visit Israel since the Holy See established relations with the Jewish state in June 1994, met earlier Sunday with Israel's two chief rabbis, Meyer Lau and Elyashu Bakshi Doron.

The archbishop also met Sunday with the mayor of Jerusalem, Ehud Olmert, who issued an invitation to the Pope to visit the city.

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INTERNATIONAL

Candidate Arafat

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Putting a 'Building Block' Of Asian Security in Place

By Michael Richardson
International Herald Tribune

SINGAPORE — The security agreement that Indonesia and Australia will sign on Monday reflects increasing concern among Asian and Pacific countries about new challenges to regional stability from China and other sources.

Officials said Sunday that although the accord between the two neighbors was not a formal defense alliance, its terms for developing closer military ties between them and providing mutual support in the event of an external challenge were similar to those in existing security agreements between Australia and Papua New Guinea, and among Australia, New Zealand, Britain, Singapore and Malaysia through the Five Power Defense arrangements.

"This is part of a process of putting together a series of building blocks in the common security interests of the region as a whole," said Gareth Evans, the Australian foreign minister, who will sign the agreement with Ali Alatas, his Indonesian counterpart.

It is the first time that Indonesia — a founding member of the Nonaligned Movement and the fourth largest country in the world — has entered into a formal security arrangement with another country.

The agreement, which Paul Keating, Australia's prime minister, said had

"treaty status," has been drafted in the most inoffensive language possible to avoid charges that it is part of an attempt, inspired by the United States, to contain China or any country, officials said.

Australia and the United States are allies under the ANZUS mutual defense pact. Nonetheless, analysts said that the agreement between Indonesia and Australia reflected a growing determination by countries in Southeast Asia and the Southwest Pacific to maintain stability in the region and lay the basis for a strategic counterweight to any attempt by China or any other outside power to interfere in regional affairs.

Juwono Sudarsono, deputy head of a training institute for the Indonesian armed forces, said the agreement could serve as "a deterrent" to possible use of force, or the threat of force, by China in the region.

Mr. Alatas said that despite differences over some issues, like the situation in East Timor, Indonesia and Australia had "common perceptions of what can constitute a possible threat to the whole region."

He said that such a situation could arise if "the equilibrium of forces among the major powers" was upset, the China-Taiwan dispute or tension on the Korean Peninsula flared up, or there was "an uncontrolled escalation in the South China Sea" as a result of the dispute between China, Tai-

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West Moves Into the Wreckage of Tito's 'Brotherhood and Unity'

By John Pomfret
Washington Post Service

VUKOVAR, Croatia — On a weedy plot of land along a riverbank in this once proud outpost of the Austro-Hungarian Empire, Drago Vuckovic fought for his homeland and watched his brother die on the wrong side of the line.

As war in the former Yugoslavia erupted in 1991, Mr. Vuckovic joined the militia forces of Croatia, a part of Yugoslavia that had just declared independence. His 32-year-old sibling, Pajo, remained in the federal army of Yugoslavia, which was dominated by officers and troops from the neighboring region, Ser-

bia. So the two brothers, children of a Serb-Croat mixed marriage, ended up fighting on opposing sides in the same battle here. On Aug. 15, 1991, Drago Vuckovic was manning a sniper's nest overlooking the killing ground when Croatian gunfire cut his brother down.

"I thought, 'Let the bastard die,'" Mr. Vuckovic recalled. "He had abandoned Croatia. He was fighting for the Serbs. I just walked away."

Four years later, Mr. Vuckovic does not feel that way anymore. At 38, broken by years of fighting Serbs and Muslims in Croatia and Bosnia, the former commander of a company of Croatian army troops cannot stop the trembling in his fingertips and the visions of

slaughter that haunt his sleep. His Serb mother died last year in Vukovar, and continued Serb occupation of his hometown prevented him from laying her to rest. His Croat father has disappeared. His friends are either dead or emigrants.

"These days I ask myself, 'Was it really worth it?'" Mr. Vuckovic said.

His question is being repeated all over the charred remains of the former Yugoslavia these days. From the Bosnian Serb mountain stronghold of Pale, to the streets of the woebegone Serbian capital, Belgrade, through the gritty alleys of Sarajevo and down the smartly renovated main boulevard of the Croatian capital, Zagreb, people are awakening from a night-

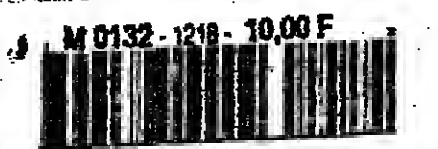
mare that tore their country apart. While giving independence to some, the bloodshed has bequeathed to a skilled, well-educated people who once enjoyed the trappings of European prosperity a paltry inheritance of poverty, homelessness and hate. Now they wonder what they have wrought — and whether they can return to a stable peace with the help of U.S. and NATO troops.

A simple question haunts the peace agreement, one that assumes new urgency as U.S. soldiers pour into Bosnia: Are the people of this cultural crossroads where East meets West burdened with a historical

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Newstand Prices

Andorra	10.00 FF	Luxembourg	65 L.Fr.
Armenia	12.50 FF	Morocco	14 Dh.
Cameroon	1,600 CFA	Oman	1,000 Rials
Egypt	CE 5	Romania	12.50 FF
France	10.00 FF	Saudi Arabia	1,100 CFA
Greece	1,100 CFA	Spain	225 PTAS
Guinea	350 Fr.	Tunisia	1,250 Din.
Italy	2,800 Lira	Turkey	TL 60,000
Jordan	1,250 JD	U.A.E.	10.00 Dhs.
Lebanon	US\$ 1.80	U.S.M.	51.20



Law of the Jungle / Women Are Often Molested

On Japan's Subway, the Commuter's Daily Nightmare

By Sheryl WuDunn
New York Times Service

KAWASAKI, Japan — Every morning, millions of Japanese brace for the ugly commuting hurly-burly: the train ride. For Samu Yamamoto, the sights and smells of the rude and uncouth rush-hour crowd conjure up sensations that propel him into spells of debauchery. Mr. Yamamoto, 42, is something of a professional molester, and for him the subway is a feast of touchables.

"When men and women are packed together, squeezed onto a train, I think everybody has some kind of desire to touch someone else's body," said Mr. Yamamoto.

to, who says he belongs to a small clandestine, loosely organized molesters' group that meets occasionally to share tips and experiences.

"If someone were molesting on a train elsewhere in the world, they'd be accused of sexual harassment," he said. "It's unique to Japan that people put up with this."

Japan is probably the most polite society in the world, a place where people bow and greet each other with apologies.

But the law of the jungle is the only one that prevails in the trains from places like Kawasaki, a bedroom community east of Tokyo, where sleepy commuters wriggle their way through the crowds each morning on the train platform.

It is the same throughout the Tokyo

region, in the sprawling web of underground subways, where push mobs shove as nearly 15 million passengers shuffle through each day.

And during the busy moments of pedestrian traffic, molesters, drunkards and pickpockets, as well as pushers and shovers, often run a commuter's ride.

It is common for Japanese women to say they have been groped at least once on the trains.

Yuri Kaga, a 27-year-old office worker, vividly remembers that as she got off a subway one day, someone slipped his hand under her T-shirt and unhooked her bra. "It was so sudden I didn't know what happened," Miss Kaga said. Then another time, a man sexually rubbed against her

clothes and body, horrifying her so much that before going to work that morning she went and bought new clothes and threw away her sullied ones.

Minuki Omori, another 27-year-old office worker, said she once saw a man yanking at the undergarments of a female train rider. "The train was so crowded she couldn't get away from him," Miss Omori said. "At the next station she stepped out to change cars, but he followed her."

For many Japanese women, such transgressions are tolerated with disgust mainly because they feel they have no redress. Some women say that policemen ignore the problem, even when plainclothes officers — on duty to scout for pickpockets — see a molester in action.

"The police are very uncooperative," said Kazuo Akita, an outspoken female lawyer. "Because it happens so often, the women just give up. Society thinks it isn't a big problem, so women are forced to think so as well. It's not only the criminals I'm furious at. Sometimes I want to kill the policemen as well."

Trainmasters seem embarrassed by the molesting and say such behavior and other crimes are police matters, but they say they can do little besides comfort the victim or scold the molester if they catch him. When an angry woman once dragged in a young man who had molested her, Masami Tsukada, a deputy trainmaster on the Odakyu line, just issued a warning.

"The woman didn't insist on calling the police, and the guy admitted he did it but said he was repentant," Mr. Tsukada said. "We generally bring the woman into our office to soothe her, and we reprimand the people who commit the crimes."

But subway officials are trying to stamp out other discourtesies and establish better subway manners. Inside the train cars, cartoon posters tell people to step aside as passengers exit, avoid whirling zippered backpacks into children's faces and lower the volume of Sony Walkmans.

At a station along the Odakyu line, which carries commuters into Tokyo from places like Kawasaki, attendants braced themselves one recent morning in front of each car.

When a train pulled in to eject the morn-

ing traffic, passengers spilled out and a thin woman collapsed in a faint.

"On a bad day, we could have three to four people falling sick," said Takeo Aoki, a deputy stationmaster on the Odakyu line. "Many of them are women who are skinny, who skip their breakfast or are on a diet, and they're not able to cope with the rough crowds in the train."

During rush hours, train attendants with white gloves come out in full force, some hired specially as "shiri oshi," or "tushy pushers," who stand in front of the doors to help pack passengers into the train.

"It's not a very good feeling to be pushing passengers, for it's kind of troubling them," said Masami Tsukada, another deputy stationmaster on the Odakyu line. "People are on the train for extended periods of time, and they get frustrated and irritated, which leads to bad manners."

These days, most passengers do their own pushing, with some even trying to maintain a modicum of manners.

As the car doors were about to close recently at a Kawasaki station, a young Japanese woman rushed to the platform, bowed deeply in courtesy to the crowded tangle of people inside, and then charged in.

Some people just trust themselves in. Some slip in on the side. Japanese trains are usually on schedule and so those who time their commutes down to the minute often prefer the last-in, first-out method, which means they must maneuver in just as the doors are closing.

Others who are determined to read on the train favor the door spots for the space to pull out a book or magazine. But as the weather turns cold and people put on bulky overcoats, the race for space becomes vicious.

"There are so many people that I'm just so tired by the time I get home," said Kazumi Kobayashi, 24, an office worker. "I just want to take a bath to wash off my exhaustion."

As for Mr. Yamamoto, the molester, he is unabashed and wrote a book about his experiences, including the time he groped a woman who then became his wife.

But strong protests from numerous women's groups forced his book off the market, and now he says he restrains himself on the subways.

U.S. Writer And Aide Wounded in Chechnya

New York Times Service

MOSCOW — An American journalist and his Georgian assistant were wounded Saturday during fighting in the Russian republic of Chechnya.

The journalist, Steve LeVine, a freelance writer who reports for The New York Times and Newsweek magazine, and his assistant, Nana Kiknadze, received leg injuries when a rocket-propelled grenade exploded near them outside a Chechen town, Urus-Martan.

Mr. LeVine suffered shrapnel wounds and a broken leg, according to witnesses reporting from Grozny, the Chechen capital. Ms. Kiknadze's injuries were described as not serious. They were taken to the main functioning hospital in Grozny, where they were to be treated until they could be taken to Moscow.

Of the thousands of people killed since Russia attacked the rebellious southern republic a year ago, at least a dozen have been journalists, both foreign and Russian. Many more have been hurt.

Sharp Battle for Town

The battle for Chechnya's second-largest town, Gudermes, continued for a fourth day Sunday, with rebel forces firing on Russian troops throughout the night in several places in the city. The Associated Press reported from Grozny.

However, no losses were reported among Russian troops in the city, the Interfax news agency said. Three soldiers were killed Saturday, officials said.

The fighting in Gudermes, 30 kilometers (19 miles) east of Grozny, began Thursday when rebels seized a local hospital.



Commuters pushing their way onto a subway car in Tokyo. Many women are victimized by molesters on the trains.

Salman Rushdie Reportedly Hurt In Car Accident

The Associated Press

SYDNEY — The author Salman Rushdie and two companions suffered minor injuries when their car crossed a highway and collided with an oncoming truck, TV stations reported Sunday.

Police and hospital officials in the New South Wales town of Milton refused to confirm that Mr. Rushdie had been injured, referring calls to the Sydney police department.

The Sydney police would only say that all three people injured in the accident Saturday evening were from London — Mr. Rushdie's home town — and that they were a 48-year-old man, a 30-year-old woman and a 16-year-old boy. Mr. Rushdie is 48.

All three had been treated and released from the Milton hospital, the police said.

The police said that the 48-year-old man suffered an injury to his right arm, and that all three victims suffered cuts and scratches.

They said the car crossed over the highway, hit an oncoming truck, bounced off its trailer and then hit a tree.

Mr. Rushdie has been touring New Zealand and Australia promoting his latest book, "The Moor's Last Sigh."

His representatives could not be reached for comment.

His whereabouts and movements are closely guarded because of a fatwa, or religious edict, calling for his death for allegedly blaspheming Islam in his book "The Satanic Verses."

The fatwa, issued by a former Iranian leader, Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini, has been rescinded.

But Mr. Rushdie has been traveling and making more public appearances on promotion tours in recent years.

French Transport Starts Rolling

PARIS (AFP) — About half of scheduled French trains will run Monday as railroad workers return to their jobs after a strike that has paralyzed France for more than three weeks, the SNCF rail authority said Sunday.

In the Paris region, trains, buses and the Metro will be free Monday, the RATP Paris mass-transit authority said. On the Metro system on Sunday, partial service had been restored on 11 of the total 15 lines, and about 20 percent of buses were running in the capital. On average, from 50 to 60 percent of SNCF trains ran Sunday on regional and express intercity services, after most of the services' 180,000 workers voted Friday to end the strike.

Belgium Faces Renewed Rail Strikes

BRUSSELS (Reuters) — Belgium faces the prospect of a new and stronger wave of rail strikes as unions reacted angrily on Saturday to plans by Belgian Railways to slash costs, cut jobs and change working practices.

The railway board has agreed to a restructuring plan to save 70 billion francs (\$2.4 billion) and cut 8,500 jobs over 10 years.

Record Rainfall in Gulf Emirates

DUBAI (AFP) — Record rainfall in Dubai and the surrounding

desert emirates has flooded roads, closed schools and forced hundreds of people to be evacuated, authorities said Sunday. The United Arab Emirates have been the hardest hit. More than 100 millimeters (four inches) of rain has been recorded in Dubai in December.

This Week's Holidays

Banking and government offices will be closed or services curtailed in the following countries and their dependencies this week because of national and religious holidays:

MONDAY: Israel, Niger.
WEDNESDAY: Indonesia.
THURSDAY: Malaysia, Sao Tome.
FRIDAY: Guatemala.
SATURDAY: Japan.

Sources: J.P. Morgan, Reuters.

TRAVEL UPDATE

Where service is anything you want it to be.

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Via Abu Dhabi or Al Ain

US\$28,000,000

HARD CASH

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US\$138,000 paid out at each draw. US\$28 Million won so far. In the world-famous Abu Dhabi/Al Ain Duty Free raffle. Each ticket priced at US\$138. Just 1,200 tickets entered in each draw. Approximately 6 draws every month. Available exclusively to passengers

travelling or transiting through the Abu Dhabi and Al Ain Airports. Notification immediately by phone and by mail. Money paid in cash, by banker's cheque or directly into the winner's bank account. US\$28,000,000 hard cash. The easy way.

AL AIN AIRPORT DUTY FREE

Abu Dhabi Airport Duty Free

To call, just dial the Access Number for the country you're visiting, and you'll reach an English-speaking Sprint Operator. It's that easy.

COUNTRIES	ACCESS NUMBERS	COUNTRIES	ACCESS NUMBERS	COUNTRIES	ACCESS NUMBERS	COUNTRIES	ACCESS NUMBERS
American Samoa	633-1000	Colombia	800-130-0110	Indonesia (Sulawesi)	080-801-15	New Zealand (South Island)	080-999-999
Anguilla (UK dependent crown)	800-300-4663	Congo (Kin)	0800-0013-0123	Israel	1-800-45-3001	New Zealand (North Island)	080-999-999
Antigua (UK dep crown)	1-800-366-4663	Croatia	080-900-011	Italy	177-100-0000	Norway (Shetland)	080-999-999
Argentina	001-800-777-1111	Cyprus	080-900-011	Japan (Honshu)	177-100-0000	Paraguay	080-999-999
Aruba	800-887-777	Czech Republic	080-900-011	Japan (Kyushu)	080-900-011	Peru	080-999-999
Australia (Tasmania)	1-800-551-177	Denmark	080-900-011	Japan (Shikoku)	080-900-011	Philippines (Mindanao)	080-999-999
Austria	023-902-014	Dominican Republic	080-900-011	Japan (Tohoku)	080-900-011	Philippines (Visayas)	080-999-999
Bahamas	1-800-389-2111	Ecuador	080-900-011	Japan (Hokkaido)	080-900-011	Poland	080-999-999
Bahrain	800-777-777	El Salvador	080-900-011	Kenya	080-900-011	Portugal	080-999-999
Barbados	1-800-477-3000	France	080-900-011	Korea (South)	080-900-011	Romania	080-999-999
Belgium	0800-10014	Germany	080-900-011	Korea (North)	080-900-011	Russia (Moscow)	080-999-999
Belize	1-800-366-4663	Ghana	080-900-011	Latvia	080-900-011	Saudi Arabia	080-999-999
Bermuda	1-800-222-0077	Greece	080-900-011	Lithuania	080-900-011	Senegal	080-999-999
Bhutan	0800-3333	Honduras	080-900-011	Malaysia	080-900-011	Sierra Leone	080-999-999
Bolivia	0800-4016	Hungary	080-900-011	Mexico	080-900-011	South Africa	080-999-999
British Virgin Islands	1-800-477-3000	India	080-900-011	Moldova	080-900-011	Spain	080-999-999
Bulgaria	0800-10014	Indonesia (Sumatra)	080-900-011	Monaco	080-900-011	Sweden	080-999-999
Cameroon	1-800-366-4663	Iran	080-900-011	Norway	080-900-011	Switzerland	080-999-999
Cayman Islands	080-900-011	Italy	080-900-011	Poland	080-900-011	Taiwan	080-999-999
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Washington
Second Clinton and
Al Impasse

By David E. Bonior
WASHINGTON — The government of the Republic of the Philippines has announced that it will not extradite a man accused of the assassination of a U.S

Second Shutdown Clinton and Republicans At Impasse Over Budget

By David E. Rosenbaum
New York Times Service

WASHINGTON — With parts of the government closed because of the budget impasse and thousands of workers threatened with furloughs on Monday, President Bill Clinton and Republican leaders in Congress spent the weekend blaming each other for the deadlock, but made no noticeable progress toward resolving their differences.

In a radio address on Saturday, the president accused the Republican Congress of forcing government installations to close "in an effort to force through their unacceptable cuts in health care, education and the environment."

"It's irresponsible," Mr. Clinton said. "I won't give in to the threat."

Asked about the president's accusations, Senator Bob Dole of Kansas, the majority leader and Mr. Clinton's most likely opponent in next year's election, snapped, "He can stop that garbage that he's spewing out on his radio program and everything else."

On Sunday, Mr. Clinton said, "I very much hope that in the spirit of the season we can resume these talks in good faith."

His chief of staff, Leon E. Panetta, said later, "I think the president would be more than willing to sit in the room with the Republican leadership, the Democratic leadership, as long as there aren't preconditions, as long as there aren't ultimatums, as long as there aren't threats about shutdown."

He added, "We are not going to surrender before we negotiate."

Mr. Panetta also said: "It isn't the Senate that's the problem here," adding: "The House Republicans have basically been in a lock. They're on a revolution. They want to get the contract done regardless of what happens here."

Pete V. Domenici, Republican of New Mexico and chairman of the Senate Budget Committee, said Sunday, "We're all ready to make a deal." He denied that the House, with its vocal core of conservative freshmen members, was any less ready to compromise than was the Senate.

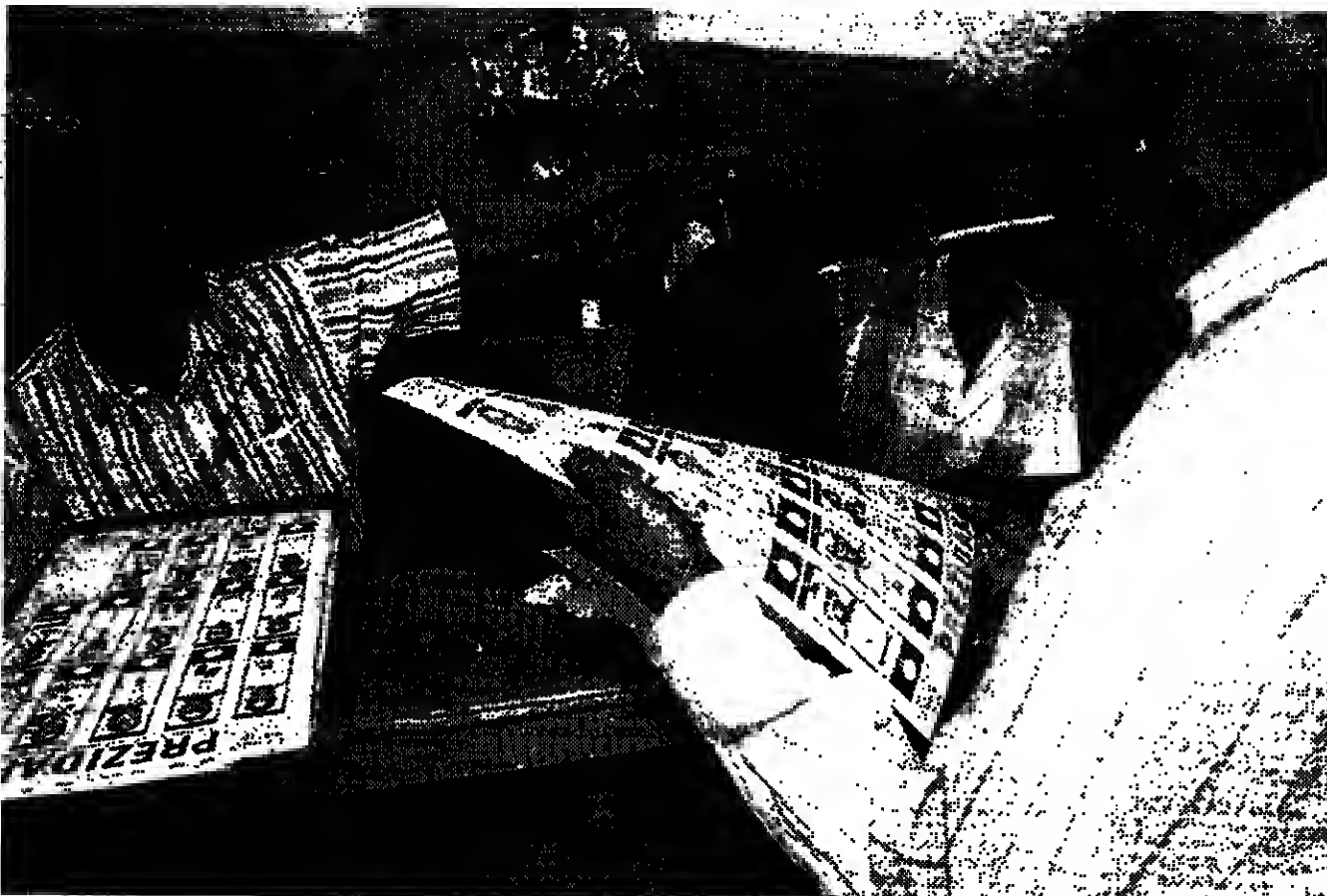
Republicans broke off what were supposed to be last-ditch budget negotiations on Friday because the White House refused to meet their one precondition: that the president submit a plan that could be shown on paper to lead to a balanced budget within seven years using the calculations of the Congressional Budget Office.

White House officials contended that they had indeed produced a balanced budget using their own, more flexible calculations and accused Republicans of insisting on unreasonably large savings from Medicare and Medicaid.

The agreement that ended last month's six-day partial shutdown of the government expired at midnight Friday. As a result, nine cabinet departments and many agencies like the Environmental Protection Agency and NASA have no money with which to operate because the bills providing them money for this fiscal year have not been passed.

If the situation is not resolved by Monday, many offices will be closed, and some 260,000 government workers will be furloughed.

The impasse involves the Republicans' massive long-term budget bill and a half-dozen spending bills for the current fiscal year. Last week, Mr. Clinton vetoed the long-term measure, which is supposed to lead to a balanced budget within seven years, on the grounds that benefits like Medicare and Medicaid would be limited too severely and taxes cut too deeply. The Republican majority in Congress is too small to override the veto.



A Haitian voter checking the list of candidates on Sunday at a polling station in Port-au-Prince.

Turnout Low as Haiti Chooses President

PORT-AU-PRINCE, Haiti

Haitians showed little enthusiasm Sunday for an election to choose a successor to President Jean-Bertrand Aristide, a vote regarded as a major test of the country's fledgling democracy.

Workers and observers at many precincts across the country reported only a fraction of registered voters had cast their ballots hours after polls opened.

Haitian and foreign officials

said overall turnout was low, attributing the lack of interest to parliamentary votes earlier in the year, a short campaign and a reluctance by many to see Mr. Aristide leave office.

Voting was largely peaceful, with few reports of irregularities.

A United Nations vehicle was hit by gunfire in rural Petit Goave two hours before polls opened, but no one was hurt. A UN spokesman termed the shooting an "isolated incident" and said it was unclear

whether it was election-related.

Turnout appeared weakest in the capital, said Micheline Bégin, deputy director of the Organization of American States election-monitoring team.

A U.S. official speculated that overall turnout could be as low as 30 percent to 35 percent.

The election that brought Mr. Aristide to power in 1990 showed a turnout of 47 percent. Former Prime Minister René Préval, running under Mr. Aristide's Lavalas party banner,

was widely expected to sweep the field of 14 candidates and avoid a runoff election in January.

After casting his ballot, Mr. Préval told reporters he hoped for a presidential term "without any coup d'état or thuggery as was always the case in the past to interrupt the process."

The United States has billed the election as a decisive test of the policy of military intervention that restored Mr. Aristide to power in 1994 after he was ousted in a 1991 coup.

Away From Politics

• Murders reported to the police plunged by 12 percent in the first half of this year, the largest drop in at least 35 years, the FBI reported Sunday. There was a 1 percent decrease overall in reported crimes and a 5 percent drop in violent crimes alone.

• About 150 relatives of those killed in the federal building bombing last April 19 in Oklahoma City gathered to decorate a Christmas tree, sing carols and pray in memory of the 169 victims.

• Clemons, 53, the trucker charged in the attack, had been taking the antidepressant Prozac, but that his prescription recently ran out. After the shooting, Mr. Clemons surrendered to the police.

• A federal judge in Salt Lake City, Utah, sentenced Earl Shumway to the maximum six and a half years in prison for stealing from Indian burial sites.

Teenage Use of Illicit Drugs Rises Again

By Pierre Thomas
Washington Post Service

WASHINGTON — The number of American teenagers using illicit drugs increased again last year for the fourth consecutive year, with fewer young people even worried about the dangers of substance abuse, according to a survey.

More secondary school students are using marijuana, LSD, hallucinogens, amphetamines, stimulants and inhalants every year, with the levels doubling in several categories since the start of the decade, according to the survey by the University of Michigan's Institute for Social Research.

Several other recent reports have similarly concluded that drug use among teenagers is steadily increasing in the 1990s following a decline in the 1980s. The Michigan survey's release stoked an already heated partisan debate over the

Clinton administration's anti-drug efforts.

The annual Michigan survey is conducted for the National Institute on Drug Abuse, and experts consider it among the most reliable benchmarks of adolescent behavior because of its consistency and longevity. The Michigan researchers have been polling high school seniors more than 20 years and 10th and 8th graders for the past five.

This year's report involved a survey of about 50,000 students in more than 400 public and private secondary schools.

The proportion of 8th graders — children about 13 years old — saying they had taken illicit drugs in the prior year has almost doubled since 1991, up from 11 percent to 21 percent. The share of 10th graders reporting drug use in the last year has jumped nearly two-thirds since 1992 and from 20 percent to 33 percent. The percentage of

high school seniors experimenting with drugs has grown by about half over that period to better than out of one of three.

Use of marijuana, which law enforcement officials say is far more potent now than during the 1960s and 1970s, showed the sharpest expansion, continuing a resurgence that began in the early 1990s. Nearly one in 20 high school seniors were daily users of marijuana during the past year. The proportion of 8th graders experimenting with the drug has nearly tripled since 1991 to 16 percent, with similar trends holding true for 10th and 12th graders.

The researchers point out that while the new numbers do not portray a drug problem as widespread as during the peak periods of the 1970s and 1980s, the statistics suggest that troubling trends are firmly taking hold. And, numerous other recent studies have come to the same conclusion.

The annual National Household Survey on Drug Abuse reported in September that regular marijuana use by teenagers had nearly doubled in two years. A 10-year study by the Carnegie Council on Adolescent Development reported in October that nearly half of Americans aged 10 to 14 are at high or moderate risk of "seriously damaging their life chances" because of drug and alcohol abuse, teenage pregnancy and other perils.

The Michigan survey also found that fewer young people believed that drugs are dangerous, a trend that began in earnest for all grade levels in 1991. The falling concern held true for marijuana, crack cocaine and powder cocaine and LSD. Four years ago, 79 percent of high school seniors thought marijuana use involved a "great risk" of harm. In the most recent survey, only 61 percent expressed such views.

"As long as we are seeing erosions in the dangers youngsters believe to be associated with these drugs, and erosions in the norms against their use, I expect that we will see a continuation of the increase in drug use," said Lloyd D. Johnston, one of the survey's researchers.

Mr. Johnston said the trends hold true across racial and socioeconomic lines.

AMERICAN TOPICS

California Girl, 7, Has Surgery To Face World With a Smile

Seven-year-old Chelsea Thomas of Palmdale, California, got an early Christmas present last week when she underwent surgery aimed at giving her a smile. She was born without the nerves or muscles needed to smile — an affliction that strikes about one in a quarter-million people.

A team of doctors in a Los Angeles hospital, headed by Ronald Zuker, a Toronto microvascular surgeon, transplanted a thigh muscle, complete with artery, vein and nerves, to Chelsea's cheek and connected it from the cheek bone to the major muscle responsible for smiling. The newly implanted muscle was also connected to a facial nerve normally used for chewing to help give it power.

The operation cost \$70,000, but Chelsea's parents persuaded their managed health care company, Kaiser Permanente, to pay. "This was not cosmetic surgery," a Kaiser Permanente spokeswoman said. "This girl was born with a congenital disorder and there are a lot of physical and psychological implications of not being able to smile."

Later, she will undergo the same procedure on the other side of her face. Her mother, Lori Todd, said she hoped her daughter would be able to smile by her birthday in June. She said Chelsea wants to become a doctor.

Short Takes

• The robber's first mistake may have been holding up a bank next door to a police station in Fort Worth, Texas. His second was

wearing a ski mask as he stood in a line of customers. "It's not peculiar to wear a ski mask during a robbery, but it is a bit peculiar to wear a ski mask and stand in line," a police official said. When a customer asked the robber what he was up to, he was told to mind his own business. Instead, the customer went next door. The man was arrested as he left the bank.

Department of Agriculture researchers say they may have found a method to control the ticks that carry such ailments as Lyme disease and human ehrlichiosis. The ticks infect cattle and humans who venture into the brush. Now, deer are fed with corn treated with a pesticide called Ivermectin, which kills ticks on the animal. But the flesh of the deer that eat the corn is not fit to eat for about two months, reducing the test periods and areas where researchers can conduct experiments.

About People

Larry King, the celebrity interviewer on television, shrugs off any criticism that he is not hard-hitting, noting that his talk-show guests have made news that is routinely picked up in The New York Times. "I'm not interested in embarrassing nor am I interested in sucking up to them," he says. "I'm just curious."

Friends and colleagues showered Gloria Steinem, the feminist leader, with praise at a tribute given by the Veteran Feminists of America. She was hailed by speakers as brilliant, strong, constant, funny, loving — you name it. After the accolades Ms. Steinem said, "I keep wondering if I'm dead yet."

Dave Duchovny, who plays an FBI agent in the television series "The X-Files," met a couple of real G-men on a television quiz show and asked them what they thought of his portrayal. Their best tip, he said, was, "Never pull out your ID with your gun hand."

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The Newt-Donor Show Moves On

WASHINGTON — Interviews and recently released federal records show that the House speaker, Newt Gingrich, has invited critical attention by bestowing special treatment on donors who gave substantial sums to his pet political project — the GOP Action Committee, which raised untold millions of dollars in the last decade for the Republican revolution that Mr. Gingrich was fomenting. By using the committee, Mr. Gingrich could encourage corporate executives to donate unlimited amounts with the assurance that their contributions would not be revealed in records open to the public.

In letters to supporters, the committee left little doubt that those who gave at least \$10,000 a year would enjoy extraordinary access to the Republican congressman from Georgia.

Part of what made the committee "unique," according to the letters, was the opportunity to "work with Newt Gingrich and to influence his issues and direction." Mr. Gingrich himself extended invitations for contributors to accompany him on 6 A.M. walks for "an hour of uninterrupted conversation."

These actions raise new questions about whether the man who now is House speaker exceeded the bounds of propriety. Although it is accepted practice for members of Congress to seek financial support aggressively, they are prohibited by law from taking official action in exchange for anything of value, including contributions.

Since his peers elected him speaker in January, Mr. Gingrich has been dogged by allegations that he violated ethical standards.

New Hampshire, Top of the Pops

CONCORD, New Hampshire — In the last two weeks, the New Hampshire secretary of state, William Gardner, has accepted the \$1,000 filing fee from 45 candidates for the presidential nomination from the Republican, Democratic and Libertarian Parties.

When the filing period closed Friday, there were 21 Democrats, including President Bill Clinton, 22 contenders in the Republican primary and two for the Libertarian vote.

In addition to Senator Bob Dole of Kansas, the Senate majority leader, and Senator Phil Gramm of Texas, the other well-known Republican candidates who filed were: the commentator Patrick Buchanan; Senator Richard Lugar of Indiana; former Governor Lamar Alexander of Tennessee; Alan J. Keyes, a former State Department official; Representative Robert Dornan of California; the publisher Malcolm S. Forbes, Jr.; and Morry Taylor, an Illinois businessman.

Mr. Clinton is the first Democratic president seeking renomination in 32 years to face no major challenger in New Hampshire.

The date of New Hampshire's primary has not been settled this year for precedential reasons centering on a primary scheduled four days later in Delaware.

Quote/Unquote

Mr. Dole on Mr. Clinton and the breakdown in budget negotiations between Congress and the White House: "I don't think he's telling the American people the truth, and if he thinks he is engaged in serious budget negotiations he ought to look at the budget."

Senator Tom Daschle, the Democratic leader on Mr. Dole's account of the negotiations: "His version of the truth and mine could not be more different. My version is that it was the Republicans this afternoon who got up and walked out of the room."

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INTERNATIONAL

Fog Thwarts U.S. Troop Landings in Bosnia

Reuters
TUZLA AIR BASE. — Losing a battle with a thick cold blanket of Balkan fog, U.S. advance forces for a NATO-led peacekeeping operation in Bosnia spent Sunday waiting here for transport planes that never came.

While the order to move in came Saturday, U.S. troops are not now expected to start arriving in Bosnia in force until the end of the week unless there is a break in the weather, U.S. officials said, something that is considered unlikely.

No planes have landed at this former MIG fighter base in the snow-covered woods of north-eastern Bosnia for four days as the cold, wet weather has frustrated American plans to airlift equipment and 1,000 men to open a U.S. base.

Two planes from Ramstein Air Base in Germany carrying

special ground control equipment tried to pierce the cloud cover on Sunday, but turned away at the last minute and flew off to Aviano in Italy.

"Why put people at undue risk?" said Major Ryan Yantis as yet another transport plane tried to put down, found the lack of visibility too dangerous and headed off for Italy.

Major Yantis said that if it need be, the U.S. Army could run its deployment of 20,000 troops from a former Soviet Army base across the Hungarian-Croatian border at Kaposvar.

The base there is being set up now as a logistics and staging point for the 1st Armored Division and other units heading for Bosnia from bases in Germany.

NATO in Power

Rick Atkinson of The Washington Post reported earlier from Bad Kreuznach, Germany:

Like a new sheriff sent to tame a lawless town, NATO formally pinned on its badge of authority in Bosnia this weekend, hopeful that a make-my-day attitude and intimidating firepower will suffice to keep the peace.

The transfer of power from the United Nations to the Western alliance has consequences both practical and symbolic. In effect, Bosnia is now NATO's problem. And in large measure that means Bosnia is now an American problem. As the alliance's undisputed leader, the United States dominates both the chain of command and the ranks of the NATO force.

The new command structure extends from General George A. Joulwan of the United States, NATO's supreme commander in Mons, Belgium, to Admiral Leighton Smith of the U.S. Navy, NATO's southern commander in Naples, who will

establish field headquarters in Sarajevo and Zagreb, the capitals of Bosnia and Croatia; then to Lieutenant General Michael Walker of Britain, the force's ground commander in Sarajevo, and down to three multinational division commanders, including Major General William L. Nash, commander of the U.S. Army's 1st Armored Division and the northeast Bosnian sector at Tuzla.

For a substantial portion of the force's 60,000 troops, the transfer of authority is as simple as changing hats. Many of the 13,000 British and 10,000 French soldiers committed to Operation Joint Endeavor will swap UN blue berets for their NATO helmets. Like Turkey, Norway and several other participants in the NATO force, Britain and France have long had troops serving in Bosnia, albeit under the constraints of a UN peacekeeping mission. The

Americans, however, arrive as "the new kids on the block," as one British analyst put it, with a large part of the force's arsenal and troops.

The U.S. units head into Bosnia with a mixture of anxiety and excitement, leavened with barracks humor. One senior officer, just back from a reconnaissance mission, described Tuzla—a gritty mining town—as "Pittsburgh without a football team."

Another officer said the landscape "is like West Virginia, except here the Hatfields and McCoys are armed with AK-47s." Some soldiers also have packed a don't-tread-on-me belligerence. Asked whether his unit is equipped with lethal weapons like pellet guns or stun grenades, a captain said: "We're going down there with our full basic load of ammo and then some. The message is: Don't screw with us."



A French soldier in the UN peacekeeping force peering from a bunker on Mount Igman, near Sarajevo. UN peacekeepers are exchanging their blue berets for NATO helmets.

Q&A / How to Heal the Scars

Children Caught Up in the Crossfire of War

Last week, Unicef issued its 50th anniversary issue on the state of world's children, focusing on the plight of children caught up in wars and conflicts. The organization's executive director, Carol Bellamy, discussed the issues with *Berry James of the International Herald Tribune*.

Q. Your report points to a growing involvement of children not only as victims of war but also as participants. Could you explain?

A. What really shocked me was the realization that a 10-year-old can take apart and put together an AK-47 rifle with the greatest of ease. I always thought of children training with these huge packs on their backs, but of course the weapons are so much lighter today. The technology makes it that much easier to kill people.

Q. So there are literally children's wars.

A. Yes, there are.

Q. Is it possible for these boy soldiers ever to lead a normal life?

A. We think they can, but we don't have much information. It is really only in recent years that there has been such

a dramatic expansion of children fighting in wars. It's estimated that in Mozambique there were 10,000 boy soldiers, some as young as six.

In some countries, more than two-thirds of the kids have seen people murdered, 90 percent of the kids have seen dead bodies, 70 percent of the kids have seen people tortured or beaten.

So we do think our programs should include some kind of counseling, and we are training teachers and community workers, as well as psychologists.

Q. Another problem highlighted by you and other organizations is that of landmines. Some of these things cost far less than a box of your greeting cards.

A. That's right. Or less than a bottle of the vitamin A pills that would stop blindness. Do you know that it costs approximately \$3 to produce and lay a mine, and \$600 to \$1,000 to get it up?

It is estimated that there are still more than 110 million land mines in more than 64 countries. And more are being laid than are being dug up. They are there for no other reason but to kill or maim.

Q. Are you concerned about the broader questions of violence in the media and in society?

A. Yes we are. We are very active in the convention on the rights of the child, which talks about there being reasonable guidelines about what is available in the media. From our perspective, there is no doubt that there is excessive violence in the media.

Q. Do you agree with those who say that large numbers of children today literally are slaves?

A. Yes I do. Whether it is sexual or labor exploitation, we think you can call it slavery. There are still unscrupulous merchants who use children in industries like rug-making when they ought to be in school.

Their little fingers are wonderful for this kind of work. But they are living in the most terrible abject conditions.

The same is true of girls who are being sold or sent out of their communities, sometimes by a parent, to be prostitutes. It's terrible; it goes on. It exists much too much as we approach the 21st century and we cannot allow it

to continue. It is the modern version of slavery.

Q. What about the problem of street children?

A. We think it is getting worse. There is disintegration of the community and of the family in places like Latin America, Kenya, India, the Philippines and elsewhere. There are no easy solutions. The anchor of the problem is poverty. It is very reflective of dysfunctional communities.

Q. The report contains some grim reading. Do you find yourself getting overwhelmed by the problems?

A. There is extraordinary misery, but nothing creates such a sense of hope as working with children. Earlier this year I visited one of our programs in a sprawling camp for displaced people in Liberia. It was awful, but after that, and they had just had a cholera outbreak.

I went to this makeshift school and I wondered whether the kids had written anything in their books. I stopped a little girl and asked to see her book. She opened it to an essay called "animals with backbones." I thought, my God, she's the one with the backbone.

PACIFIC: 'Building Block' of Security to Be Signed AUSTRIA: Rightists Fall Short

Continued from Page 1

wan, Vietnam, Malaysia, the Philippines and Brunei over control of the Spratly Islands and surrounding areas that contain valuable reserves of oil, natural gas and fish.

Despite impressive economic growth, uncertainty about the future of East Asia has increased after the end of the Cold War and the rise of new regional powers, especially China.

Beijing's assertive actions this year over the Spratly Islands, Taiwan and Hong Kong have raised fears about its long-term intentions toward the region, despite repeated assurances from Chinese leaders that the country's continued economic development depends on a peaceful neighborhood.

Although Indonesia is not involved in the Spratly dispute, official Chinese maps show that Beijing's longstanding claims

to sovereignty over a vast area of the South China Sea include a gas field off Indonesia's Natuna Islands, which Jakarta is developing at a cost of about \$35 billion with American and Japanese energy companies.

Indonesia's official Antara news agency reported that a major defense exercise involving troops, warplanes and naval vessels was under way in waters around the Natunas on Friday.

It quoted Rear Admiral Widodo, head of the Indonesian Navy's Western Fleet, as saying that the exercise should convince investors not to "worry about security when investing in this area."

The defense ministers of Indonesia and Australia and the heads of their armed forces were to attend the signing ceremony on Monday in Jakarta.

The full text of the Australia-Indonesia Agreement on Main-

taining Security was to be released after the signing.

But Mr. Kesting said that it would obligate both countries to "consult each other in the case of adverse challenges to either party or to their common security interests and, if appropriate, consider measures which might be taken by them individually or jointly and in accordance with the processes of each government."

He said the agreement applied "only to external challenges, not those that might arise from internal developments" in either nation.

Mr. Kesting also said the agreement formalized an understanding between Jakarta and Canberra in August to hold annual meetings of their defense ministers, exchange intelligence, and increase joint military training, exercises, strategic consultations and visits.

Continued from Page 1

character and who have remained true to their beliefs despite the greatest opposition."

After the election results became clear, Mr. Haider blamed his failure to win more votes on "slogans of fear" that the Social Democrats had used against him.

"We certainly cannot say that this election was the fulfillment of our hopes, but there's no need to be overly dramatic," Mr. Haider said.

"We are going to be the decisive opposition in Parliament, and we'll show greater strength in the years ahead."

The election was held nearly three years early, after the center-right Austrian People's Party, which has been in coalition with the Social Democrats for most of the last 50 years, abruptly abandoned the coalition. The leader of the People's Party, Wolfgang Schüssel, gambled that the climate was right for him to finish ahead of Mr. Vranitzky and thus form a new rightist coalition, but his gamble did not pay off.

The People's party finished with 28.1 percent of the vote, almost exactly what it won last year. The results meant that a coalition between the People's Party and Mr. Haider's Freedom Party was arithmetically possible, but Mr. Haider joined many other analysts in predicting that the long-standing two-party coalition would be rebuilt.

A Swing to Stability

The swing behind the Social Democrats, who have governed for the last 25 years but suffered heavy losses in last year's elections, indicated that most Austrians would fear a Haider accession to power and want the stability of past decades to continue. The Associated Press reported.

The conservative Austrian People's Party, who broke the nine-year-old coalition with the Social Democrats last October, did marginally better than last year, but missed their declared goal of becoming No. 1.

The conservatives appeared to add one seat for a total of 53. Projections showed Mr. Haider's party stagnant, losing 0.1 percent. With 22.1 percent of the popular vote, his party remains the strongest right-wing party in Europe with 42 seats in Parliament.

Some 83 percent of more than 5.7 million eligible voters took part in the ballot.

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African Airlines: How Safe?

Pushing Bankrupt Fleets to Their Limits

By Howard W. French
New York Times Service

ABIDJAN, Ivory Coast — When Wolfgang Schmidt, a German journalist working in West Africa, wanted to get from Cotonou, Benin, to Douala, Cameroon, earlier this month, he faced the kind of devilish choice that has become routine for travelers in this region.

He could fly 455 miles in the opposite direction to Abidjan, and then wait three hours for a connecting flight on Air Afrique, the region's largest and best-reputed carrier. Or he could plow ahead later that evening on Cameroon Airlines, one of the region's many small, troubled national carriers, for a direct flight to his destination.

Placing convenience over any concerns he might have had over safety, Mr. Schmidt chose the latter route. But as his plane approached Douala airport, witnesses said, a fire appeared to break out in one of the jet's engines. The Boeing 737 crashed into a swamp, killing Mr. Schmidt and 72 of the 78 other people on board.

There still is no official explanation. But the accident served to draw attention to the perils of flying in what many

consider the world's worst-served region for air travel.

Aviation experts say the underpinnings of West Africa's air transport problems are understood: cash-strapped governments are running nearly bankrupt airlines in an area where the idea of consumer rights has yet to be born.

For Cameroon Airlines, some experts say, this has meant that a tiny fleet is being pushed to the limit to cover the company's long routes. In situations like this, which are commonplace, African airlines fly all day, often only to be pushed into service at night for long flights to Europe.

"The stress that we are putting on our aircraft and crews has just become intolerable," said a Cameroon official.

In pursuit of profits or, more often, in an effort to cut their losses, African aviation officials are increasingly seen "cornering" planes dangerously cut, from using two flight crew members in planes designed for three to skimping on repairs.

International guidelines exist for such things, but aviation experts say individual countries are free to enforce these rules as they see fit, meaning that in

Africa, many standards are allowed to slip.

Foreign regulatory bodies, like the Federal Aviation Administration and its European counterparts, can demand strict adherence to guidelines only from carriers that serve their countries.

"Some of the airlines are just not maintaining their aircraft," said the Nigerian aviation minister, Nisikak Edoak, shocking many in the region by his candor. "I don't want to scare people, but I have to say this: Some of the aircraft these airlines are flying are not airworthy."

He should know. Nigerian aircraft — often second- or third-hand Boeings or the bargain-priced Soviet-era Tupolevs and Antonovs increasingly seen here — have been involved in at least seven major accidents in little over a year, killing scores.

"Anyone who travels on this continent experiences the same fears, the same rattles, the same horrible airports and abysmal service, and God knows what else," said Hans Crackauer, vice president for aviation of the International Airline Passengers Association. "Obviously, this is no way to run a railroad."

RUSSIA: Voter Turnout Is Higher Than Expected

Continued from Page 1

attacks disrupted voting and correspondents said they saw few Chechen voters.

Russian officials, however, who closed well-guarded polling stations in Chechnya early, said turnout there was around 70 percent.

The election commission said the turnout was 37 percent by 5:30 P.M. Moscow time. More than 80 percent of soldiers had already voted, the Inter-Tass press agency quoted Defense Ministry officials as saying.

A hard-line victory would be important mainly as a preview of presidential elections in six

months. The presidency is the real power, and Mr. Yeltsin has usually been able to circumvent hostile legislatures. The president appoints the prime minister and cabinet.

On Sunday, the president said he would consider changes in the cabinet according to "the arrangement of forces in the Duma," but reforms would continue. "No situation and nobody can force me to go back from the chosen course of reform," Mr. Yeltsin said. "It is inevitable."

The Communist leader, Genadi Zuygakov, sounded confident but conciliatory, saying he wanted "to balance the system." He has said that a strong

Communist showing would demonstrate that Prime Minister Viktor S. Chernomyrdin's government should resign.

Mr. Chernomyrdin said he thought the high turnout would help reformist and centrist blocs. "The people of Russia do not want explosions and upheavals," he said.

In Soviet tradition, election officials in some regions tried to encourage voter turnout by giving away prizes like food and kitchen appliances.

Conventional wisdom has it that Communist supporters, mainly the elderly poor, vote no matter what, so a high general turnout would water down their influence. (AP, AFP, Reuters)

MIDEAST: 'A New Game,' but Assad Still Holds the Cards to Peace

Continued from Page 1

thought it apt to recall a meeting Henry A. Kissinger had with President Assad 22 years earlier, when the former secretary of state was preparing the Geneva Conference after the Yom Kippur War of 1973.

As Mr. Kissinger told it in his memoirs, he showed Mr. Assad the letters of invitation he had prepared, and to his surprise the Syrian leader approved the entire text, with no reservations. Mr. Kissinger was delighted — until the very end of the meeting, when Mr. Assad noted in passing that Syria had no intention of attending the conference.

Recalling that story, Hemi Shalev of the Maariv newspaper joined many other Israelis in noting that "before we start announcing peace with Syria as an accomplished fact, we had better wait until Assad has said his final word."

Yet it is also a fact that the new Israeli prime minister, Shimon Peres, has been around even longer than Mr. Assad, and that he was the man most responsible for making peace with Yasser Arafat, the

Palestinian leader, something few Israelis ever thought could happen.

A protégé of David Ben Gurion, the founder of the Israeli state, Mr. Peres, 73, has been at or near the center of Israeli politics from the beginning, and he has declared unequivocally that a full Middle East settlement will be achieved by the end of this century.

"It's a new game, it's a new time, it's a new beginning," Mr. Peres declared at the press conference Saturday. If he's right, a "declaration of principles" between Israel and Syria could be ready already early next year.

The fact is that the outline of an Israeli-Syrian peace has never been a great mystery — Syria wants to get back the Golan Heights and to receive an endorsement of its control over Lebanon. Israel wants air-tight security, normalization of relations and a comprehensive peace. There are many issues that would require considerable work, to be sure, most notably the sharing of water resources in the Golan. But as the Palestinian negotiations demonstrated, technical prob-

lems can be worked out once the political decision is made to strike a deal.

Yet the fact that the outlines of an agreement are relatively evident does not make reaching one any easier. On the contrary, it has often made attempted negotiations into contests over "who should blink first" — who should be first to make a concession.

Since a peace is really all he has to offer, Mr. Assad has been more prone to make procedural questions into bargaining chips in themselves. He has insisted in the past that Israel give a public assurance of its readiness to return the whole of the Golan Heights even before sitting down to talks.

On his side, the late Yitzhak Rabin ruled that ambassadors and military officials from the two sides must first resolve security matters before talks can begin on broader issues.

The upshot was that the Syrians walked out of talks twice over the past year. One reason was that Mr. Assad evidently did not believe that Mr. Rabin was really intent on making peace — nor that he could sell it to the Israeli public.

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BOSNIA: West Moves Into the Wreckage of Tito's 'Brotherhood and Unity'

Continued from Page 1

hared so deep that peace now merely means an interlude before a new war traps American and NATO troops? Or can the presence of an occupying army help move the peoples of the former Yugoslavia toward re-embracing the relative tolerance and civility that reigned among ethnic groups for 45 years before the war?

The answer, as usual in the Balkans, is mixed. Its peoples — the warring Serbs, Croats and Muslims of Bosnia as well as nearby Albanians, Macedonians and others — have different religions, languages and even alphabets, and consider themselves different ethnic groups. For centuries, they have lived together, sometimes uneasily, usually in peace, but always with some sense

of separate identity. Tolerance was state policy in the old Yugoslavia, enshrined in the slogan "Brotherhood and Unity" and enforced by the security apparatus of Marshal Tito, the Communist dictator who ruled the country as president from 1945 to 1980. The model was Sarajevo — a graceful city nestled in the mountains where Serbs, Croats and Muslims freely mixed and married and where Catholic church steeples, Orthodox onion domes and Muslim minarets stood side by side.

Yet in pursuing their aims of creating ethnically pure states out of the wreckage of the former Yugoslavia, Tito's post-Communist successors — first the Serbian president, Slobodan Milosevic, and later the Croatian president, Franjo Tudjman — sowed their messages of ethnic hatred and nationalism on fertile

ground. Grievances and prejudices among the ethnic groups date back generations, and to those passions, the current war has added a new layer of resentment and ill will. Again, the symbol is Sarajevo — now shattered by years of shelling and segregated by ethnic group. Its mixed families and cosmopolitan elite long ago driven into exile.

The NATO troop deployment essentially hopes to re-create and enforce the stability last known under Tito. But the carrying out of the peace plan could tip this balance between hostility and tolerance in either direction. It could determine whether the Balkans will become the next century's version of the Arab-Israeli conflict after the partition of Palestine in 1948, or the model for ethnic peacemaking in a fractious post-Cold War world.

"This historical hatred is an illusion," said Stipe Mesic, a Croatian politician who was the last president of the old Yugoslavia. "It is a creation of Milosevic and Tudjman, who wanted to forge ethnically homogeneous states from the leopard skin that was former Yugoslavia. Once this policy stops, people will start living together again."

The last four years, however, have added another legacy of violence, including rape campaigns, decapitations, mass executions and the torching of houses that one war crimes investigator described as "possessing an almost intimate brutality."

So just as the unresolved legacy of World War II helped fuel the post-Communist outbreak of war, this new toll of violence and suffering has created bitterness that could be used to fire future battles.

FRANCE: Strike's Winners (Unions) and Losers (Juppé)

Continued from Page 1

of Trade Unions, who criticized the strikes as a throwback to class-warfare ritual. Instead, she has pressed for more consultations with unions.

Her view is shared by the Socialist Party, which resisted the temptation to join the fray as it did during the strikes in May 1998.

But more pessimistic analysts cite the doubts, verging on outright rejection, among many French people about ideas symbolizing social modernization. A significant minority are rejecting calls for change from leaders who belong to a confident elite.

Publicly, some of Mr. Juppé's allies have said that the government may have to extend its two-year timetable for economic and social changes.

In their view, it will take more time before the public will realize that there is no realistic alternative to the changes.

This pessimistic view concludes that the unions' success in thwarting Mr. Juppé has increased the likelihood of more such revolts. Although strikes by other public workers would lack the impact of the transit walkout, they could help topple an economy that is already stumbling.

Already, Mr. Juppé has to face calls from the main unions for fresh action, including more demonstrations Tuesday, to block his overall welfare reforms. The main thrust is coming from rail unions eager to deflect charges of quiting once they secured their own privileges.

Mr. Juppé's biggest problem seems to be his image as an un-

feeling technocrat who conspicuously lacks the human touch in his political dealings.

He has also not recovered from public resentment about President Jacques Chirac's switch from campaign promises of prosperity to more austerity.

Nor did Mr. Chirac stop the Juppé government from taking on the railroad deficit at the same time as social security. The railroad issue was bound to cause conflict because the train system is the main remaining bastion of the Communist-led General Confederation of Labor.

In addition, Workers' Force — a union well represented in railroads and other state-owned enterprises — was antagonized by the government's plan to take away its influential role helping managing part of the nation's health plan.

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ASIA

BRIEFLY

3-Party Merger Is Urged in Japan

TOKYO — The three parties in Prime Minister Tomichi Murayama's governing coalition may merge into a single new political entity that could dominate Japanese politics, a veteran politician said Sunday.

"It is possible that the Liberal Democratic Party, the Social Democratic Party and the Sakigake party would become one party under a name such as the Liberal Socialist Party," said Shizuka Kamei, a former Liberal Democratic transportation minister. "There are no longer major differences between the three parties."

(Reuters)

Taipei to Take Delivery of F-16s

TAIPEI — Lockheed Martin plans to begin delivery of F-16 warplanes to Taiwan in July, the United Daily News reported Sunday. The delivery of the jet fighters will help Taiwan keep pace with an arms buildup in China, the Taiwanese Defense Ministry has said.

Taiwan agreed in 1992 to buy 150 of the F-16s for about \$6 billion.

(Reuters)

U.S. to Put Warships Near Korea

SEOUL — A U.S. naval battle group led by the aircraft carrier Independence and two nuclear submarines will stay near the Korean Peninsula next month to deter "any kind of provocations" by North Korea, a military report said Sunday.

The Independence will take part in a sea exercise in January near the peninsula, accompanied by submarines, destroyers and support ships, the South Korean joint chiefs of staff said.

(AFP)

Cambodian Prince Accepts Exile

PHNOM PENH — Prince Norodom Sirivudh, the half-brother of King Norodom Sihanouk, has agreed to go into exile rather than face trial on charges linked to an alleged assassination plot against Cambodia's second prime minister, Hun Sen.

"Your faithful and humble servant accepts, totally, the far-sighted solution," he said in a letter written from detention. King Sihanouk, in a response, thanked Prince Sirivudh for accepting his solution, which the king described as "the least bad for you." Both letters were made public by the palace on Sunday.

(Reuters)

For the Record

At least six people were killed and seven wounded Sunday in a rocket strike on Kabul, witnesses said.

(Reuters)

VOICES From Asia

Ohn Gya, the foreign minister of Burma, on his country's preparations to join the Association of South East Asian Nations: "When we become a member, we do not want to be a sleeping partner. We would like to be very active. But without experience and without a foundation of economic infrastructure, one cannot do it. We have to liberalize our laws. We have to make arrangements for the expansion of our trade. There are many things, many considerations."

(AFP)

Gareth Evans, the Australian foreign minister, about the security agreement with Indonesia that he was to sign on Monday: "This is part of a process of putting together a series of building blocks in the common security interests of the region as a whole."

(IHT)



Hong Kong demonstrators on Sunday protesting China's sentencing of Wei Jingsheng.

Wei Trial: An 'Ordinary' Case

China Judge Calls 14-Year Term Lenient

Compiled by Our Staff From Dispatches

BEIJING — Judge Wang Ming, who sentenced China's foremost dissident, Wei Jingsheng, to 14 years in jail for subversion, called the trial "just an ordinary case" and said the punishment was lenient.

His comments were reported in an interview published by a China-backed Hong Kong newspaper, Ta Kung Pao. Also interviewed were the other judge in the case, Wang Yisheng, and the prosecutor, Wang Huajun.

Mr. Wei's sentencing Wednesday and the authorities' handling of the case drew widespread condemnation. But the three officials insisted China's legal procedures were followed to the letter. The chief judge said the trial was "fair" because Mr. Wei attacked the government in court. He said the magistrates allowed Mr. Wei to continue his defense despite two objections from the prosecution.

The Chinese officials also said it was legal to imprison Mr. Wei for 20 months before he was formally charged because

there is no limitation on being under house arrest during police investigation. However, observers said Mr. Wei was in police custody, not at home, after police picked him up in April 1994.

The chief judge said there was nothing unusual about the swift sentencing because "this was just an ordinary case, so we had the authority to decide the sentence and announce it at the same court session."

The judge disputed Mr. Wei's argument that his economic and cultural activities — such as his allegedly illegal art exhibits and efforts to start a bank — were separate from his political cause.

"Rather, all these activities were to serve his purpose of overthrowing the government," the judge said.

He cited a letter Mr. Wei wrote to a friend, Liu Qing, in which the dissident observed: "A single bean sprout can be nipped by a finger, but a tray of bean sprouts can support a mortar. Why then don't we pool our strength and wait for an opportunity?"

The newspaper report quoted

the officials as saying foreign reporters were not given passes to attend the open trial because by the time the requests reached the judges the passes had all been distributed.

In Hong Kong, hundreds of protesters marched Sunday demanding Mr. Wei's release.

Rally organizers said there were around 1,800 marchers, but police put the number at 800. The march finished at the Hong Kong branch of the Xinhua news agency, the de facto Chinese embassy here.

There was a heavy police presence. Police videotaped proceedings, witnesses said.

Leaders of the Hong Kong Alliance in Support of the Democratic and Patriotic Movement in China, organizers of the rally, planned to hand in a protest letter at the agency.

Protesters carried big pictures of Mr. Wei and banners bearing slogans including, "Today It's Mr. Wei, Tomorrow It's You or Me."

Mr. Wei's imprisonment has heightened fears that China will act against opponents once it takes back Hong Kong on July 1, 1997.

(AP, AFP)

Pakistan Sees Nuclear Threat

Test by India Would Force a Response

Reuters

ISLAMABAD, Pakistan — Pakistan might be forced across the nuclear threshold if India goes ahead with reported plans for a nuclear test, Pakistani commentators said Sunday.

"Should India have its second nuclear test, we will demand that Pakistan examine its options in light of the heightened threat to our national security," said Mushahid Hussain, spokesman for the opposition Pakistan Muslim League party.

"This is a test case for the West, particularly the United States, since they talk so much on nuclear nonproliferation," he said. "As Pakistanis and Muslims, we feel their concern is selective. Pakistan is targeted, while known nuclear powers like Israel and India are exempted from American pressure."

India exploded a nuclear device in 1974, but like Pakistan denies having nuclear weapons. U.S. officials say both countries could swiftly assemble atomic bombs.

Pakistan's official response to a New York Times report that India could be preparing for its second nuclear test has been muted.

A Foreign Ministry spokesman said that such a test would set back nonproliferation efforts and "jeopardize peace and stability in the region." He said it would also have "grave implications" for efforts to achieve a comprehensive test ban treaty.

India has dismissed the newspaper report as "highly speculative," but has not denied it outright.

A commentary in the English-language daily The News said an Indian nuclear test would create a security peril for Pakistan that it could meet only by carrying out a similar test.

"It will force Pakistan to leave the long-held line of being a screw's turn away from being a declared nuclear power," wrote a columnist, Syed Talat Hussain.

The Karachi-based Dawn newspaper urged the United States, which imposed sanctions on Pakistan in 1990 because of suspicions about its nuclear program, to put similar pressure on India.

"Washington should now be using its considerable clout with New Delhi — more specifically its generous plans for investment in the Indian market — to dissuade India from carrying out the planned nuclear test," a Dawn editorial said.

The Nation newspaper said India's alleged intention to carry out a nuclear test would infuriate the seven-nation Association of South East Asian Nations, which last week signed a treaty banning nuclear arms from Southeast Asia.

Pakistan has called for a nuclear-free zone in the South Asia region, but it has refused to sign the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty unless India also signs it.

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INTERNATIONAL

Arafat Declares Candidacy for Palestinian Post

By Barton Gellman
Washington Post Service

JERUSALEM—Three days after Israeli forces pulled out of Nablus, Yasser Arafat paid his first visit in 28 years to the West Bank's largest city last week and declared his candidacy for Palestinian president from the roof of an abandoned military post.

Shouting into a microphone atop the former Israeli headquarters, Mr. Arafat recited the list of six Arab cities to receive self-rule by the end of the month—Jenin, Tulkarim and Nablus already and Qalqilya, Ramallah and Bethlehem in coming days—and promised that "liberation" was coming for Jerusalem too.

"We promise to continue, step by step, building the Palestinian independent state with its capital, noble Jerusalem," Mr. Arafat said.

Sovereignty over Arab-dominated East Jerusalem, conquered by Israel from Jordan in 1967, is a Palestinian demand in continuing talks with Israel.

Mr. Arafat has long made clear that he planned to run for president of the Palestinian Council that will be formed Jan. 20. He chose Nablus, a center of Palestinian nationalism, to make his candidacy official.

"From liberated Nablus, I say to you: Will you permit me to nominate myself?" Mr. Arafat asked. Thousands of Palestinians roared a joyous approval.

The timing designed by Mr. Arafat

and Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin of Israel, in the accord they signed in Washington on Sept. 28, could not be more favorable to Mr. Arafat at the polls.

His election campaign coincides with scenes of celebration as Israeli forces withdraw from cities where they were regarded as despised occupiers.

No potential opponent reaches double digits in opinion polls, and Mr. Arafat's election is regarded as certain. The 23-seat council will have executive and legislative powers.

The longtime chairman of the Palestine Liberation Organization, who has ruled the Gaza Strip and Jericho for 17 months, expressed his solidarity with Palestinian prisoners still held in Israeli

jails, singling out Sheikh Ahmed Yassin, the spiritual leader of the Islamic Resistance Movement, known as Hamas.

There are increasing signs that Mr. Arafat has succeeded in splitting Hamas, Hamas once opposed any compromise with Israel or any participation in self-rule, but its local leadership now sees less appeal in estranging itself from the Palestinian state in the making.

Many Hamas leaders appear likely to take part, directly or indirectly, in the Jan. 20 ballot. One senior leader in Gaza, Emad Falouji, has announced his candidacy for the legislature and accepted a position from Mr. Arafat as director of his efforts at "national reconciliation."



Students praying in Bir Zeit before a rally on the eighth anniversary of the Intifada.

Videotape on Market Shows Rabin Killing

The Associated Press

JERUSALEM—Israeli and international news organizations negotiated Sunday for the rights to broadcast an amateur videotape of the assassination of former Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin.

The videotape, filmed by a 37-year-old Tel Aviv man, shows the confessed assassin, Yigal Amir, shooting Mr. Rabin at point-blank range as he left a Tel Aviv peace rally on Nov. 4.

The negotiations for the broadcast rights were conducted by lawyers for the anonymous cameraman. The asking price reportedly ranged between \$100,000 and three times that amount.

The existence of the videotape was revealed only last week, and the video was shown to the commission investigating the security breakdown that led to Mr. Rabin's death.

"The commercializing of

this is not at all pleasant," said Mordechai Kirshenbaum, the director of Israel Broadcast Authority, which runs the state-owned Channel One television. "But the archival value of this material for the coming years and Israeli history is very high."

Mr. Kirshenbaum said that Channel One had joined forces with an Israeli daily and a foreign news organization in order to meet the sum demanded. A similar competing group organized around Channel Two's main rival, Channel Two.

Journalists and the lawyers who viewed the footage said the cameraman had focused on Mr. Amir appearing to hide behind a potted plant with his hands behind his back.

"Anyone who sees the tape sees that the man is suspicious," Yoram Samuel, the attorney who represents the cameraman, said on Israeli radio.

Seoul Tries to Defuse Crisis as Roh Goes on Trial

The Associated Press

SEOUL—Roh Tae Woo, the disgraced former president, goes on trial Monday as South Korea struggles to minimize the impact of major political scandals involving past military governments.

Mr. Roh faces corruption charges for taking bribes for a \$650 million slush fund that he established during his 1988-93 term. If convicted, he can be sentenced to 10 years to life in prison.

Mr. Roh's immediate predecessor, Chun Doo Hwan, also is in jail for masterminding a 1979 coup. The prosecution has until

Friday to indict him for military rebellion, which carries the death penalty.

The two former army generals are the ex-presidents to face criminal charges for misdeeds in office. A third former president, Choi Kyn Hah, is being asked to testify in connection with the 1979 coup.

In a move to defuse a political crisis touched off by the scandals, President Kim Young Sam dismissed his prime minister Friday and named an academic with no ties to previous governments to replace him.

Lee Soo Sung, president of state-run Seoul National Uni-

versity, replaced Lee Hong Koo, who had been in the prime minister's job for less than a year.

Mr. Lee's appointment is subject to parliamentary approval, expected by Tuesday at the latest. Presidential officials said a major shuffle of the 24-member cabinet and presidential staff would follow, perhaps early in the week.

Local media, quoting various sources, said the expected shake-up would be extensive and involve key posts.

The shake-up is seen as part of President Kim's preparations for parliamentary elections in

April, which are seen as a precursor for presidential balloting in 1997. Mr. Kim's governing party suffered a major setback in local elections last June.

The outgoing prime minister and other cabinet members to be replaced reportedly are being asked to run as government candidates in April.

Mr. Roh will stand trial with 14 aides and businessmen, charged with helping him establish the slush fund. The industrialists involved represent a who's who of South Korea's business circles.

Mr. Roh claims that the money came from donations, which

were customary under past governments. But prosecutors say that he swapped money for major government projects.

Court officials said security will be tight for his trial. About 400 police will be deployed outside the courtroom. Activist groups have demonstrated almost daily to demand stern punishment.

Mr. Chun, 64, who was president from 1980 to 1988, continued a hunger strike Sunday for the 15th day to protest what he perceives as political retaliation. He says President Kim reversed a promise not to punish him for the 1979 coup.

Southeast Asia's Becalmed 'Boat People' 40,000 Linger in Camps Despite International Pact

By Keith B. Richburg
Washington Post Service

HONG KONG—Some 40,000 Vietnamese refugees, "boat people" who fled economic hardship and political repression of the 1980s, still languish in crowded camps here in Hong Kong and scattered around Southeast Asia.

An international agreement was supposed to have all the regional camps cleared and the refugees back home by this year, but repatriation efforts appear to have largely stalled.

Jahanshah Assadi, the Hong Kong representative of the UN High Commissioner for Refugees, said another international meeting was scheduled for January, to come up with yet another deadline and search for new solutions.

Hong Kong has its own deadline, since China has repeatedly warned that it wants all the Vietnamese refugees—some 20,000, or half the regional total—out of this colony before Beijing assumes sovereignty here on July 1, 1997.

Hong Kong officials continue to insist that the camps here will be cleared, but the mid-1997 deadline now looks increasingly precarious. This year, Mr. Assadi said, only about 1,600 Vietnamese voluntarily returned home, a huge drop from the 5,600 who volunteered to be repatriated in 1994. And this year, the Hong Kong government has forcibly deported an additional eight

hundred or so, with a new deportation flight about every six weeks.

"We've got eighteen months to go" before China takes over Hong Kong, said Peter Barnes, a lawyer who assists refugees in the camps. "At the present rate, you're not going to clear half of these people out of here by 1997."

Hoping to revive the stalled repatriation program, the Clinton administration

'At the present rate, you're not going to clear half of these people out of here by 1997.'

has embarked on a series of discussions with Hanoi about a new program that would persuade the Vietnamese to return under UN protection to Ho Chi Minh City, where American immigration officials would interview them and screen out those who might be eligible for resettlement in the United States.

Western diplomats said that the talks were not going well, mainly because the Vietnamese side was balking at taking back all the refugees.

"I think they're suspicious," a Western diplomat said. "They're concerned about getting people they consider subversive

They may be holding up the international community for more money."

Even if the U.S. plan is approved, refugee officials here say, many of the Vietnamese in the camps may still refuse to budge, since the idea is that all the refugees would return to Ho Chi Minh City before they were interviewed by U.S. immigration officials.

It is also unclear exactly how many might qualify for resettlement if they are rescreened. The Hong Kong government says none, since all the refugees were already screened, and were given the right to appeal, and the UN refugee agency conducted its own separate interviews.

But rights lawyers working with the refugees say the initial interviews were hasty and flawed.

About half the refugees in Hong Kong are from the Northern half of Vietnam, out from the U.S.-backed South, and would be far less likely to have any valid claim of fearing persecution back home.

"The Northerners, I don't think, are under any illusions," Mr. Barnes said. But among the Southerners, he said, those with legitimate grounds to fear persecution "potentially includes all of them."

Elsewhere in the region, patience continues to wear thin with the refugees. Malaysia, for example, is said to be planning a forced deportation program to clear its camps of about 5,000 Vietnamese.

LANGUAGE

By William Safire

Sticks and Stones, and Obscenity

WASHINGTON—Yesterday, the House erupted into partisan shouting, wrote Adam Clymer last month in the Sunday Week in Review section of The New York Times, "after Representative John L. Mica said of Clinton and his shifting views on budget balancing, 'We're here to nail the little bugger down.'"

The Florida Republican was ruled out of order for his choice of a word, and was permitted to resume speaking only after the House voted to let him; then he apologized.

Certainly the word was disrespectful. But in the newspaper account written the same day by Clymer, the offending word had been edited out, although other terms of disrespect—like *twerp* or *nerd*—probably would not have been. Evidently there was some concern on the news desk about obscenity, which was resolved a short time later.

Broadcast journalists had the same feeling about using the word. On CNN, Larry King asked Bill Plante of CBS, "Representative John Mica today called Clinton a 'little bugger'—what do you make of that?" Plante said: "There's something wrong with that word, and you don't want to get into it on this broadcast. I think, but in England it means something very specific and not very nice." King swerved off the subject.

Is *bugger* fit to print, or to use in polite company or on the air? This space is the place we face up to these decisions.

"What a cheeky bugger," wrote The Daily Telegraph in Britain about a sports photographer, Dennis Taylor, last month. At the same time, The Bangor Daily News in Maine reported on a costly attempt to stop beavers from damming a small town's culverts, quoting Candy Roy, the town manager: "I think they're wimpy. You can clear them out, but they're persistent little buggers." The International Herald Tribune ran a piece by Washington Post correspondent Steve Vogel quoting a Himalayan guide as seeming "well suited to solo travel, having been described as a 'grumpy bugger' by a colleague."

None of these usages is obscene. ("None are" would be obscene to purists.) The Oxford

English Dictionary Supplement categorizes the word as "coarse slang," but not a vulgarity; the Random House Historical Dictionary of American Slang shows four senses: "a despicable person," "a fellow; person," "a thing," and "an undertaking that is difficult," and adds: "The Standard English sense 'sodomite' is no longer commonly understood in the U.S."

In the same way, the slang verb *bugger off* means only "bear it," or "get out of here," or their extension, "don't give me that stuff." James Joyce used the term in that imperative sense in his novel "Ulysses": "Here bugger off, Harry. There's the cops!" This is predominantly a British usage, as is *bugger-all*, meaning "nothing."

As a verb, however, *to bugger* is now, and has been since its coinage from a 1555 noun, plainly obscene. It means "to engage in anal copulation." No ifs or ands. A second sense of the verb is not obscene, with its past participle meaning "cursed, damned," as in "I'll be bugged." A third sense, often combined with up, means "confused, discomfited." This is as acceptable as *screw up*, which followed the same metaphoric trail from verbal obscenity. (You can say *all bugged up* on American television without raising eyebrows.) It would help if the noun *bugger* were applied only to small objects, and the slang term for "sodomite" were limited to *buggerer*, but such orderliness cannot be imposed on language.

Both noun and verb could be attacked on grounds of ethnic slur: the French *bougre* comes from *Bulgarian*, a name for a sort considered heretic in the 11th century, to whom various abominations were ascribed. The good citizens of modern Bulgaria have a right to complain, but life is unfair.

To come to the point, it was disrespectful to call the president a "little bugger," or even a big *bugger* or a canny *bugger*, but it was not intended to be, or widely taken to be, obscene: a family newspaper or broadcaster was proper to report the noun as spoken. Just be careful about using it as a verb.

New York Times Service

BOOKS

WHAT THEY'RE READING

• Genie Godula, Fun Radio talk-show host in Paris is reading "Divided Lives: The Public and Private Struggles of Three Accomplished Women" by Elsa Walsh.

"It profiles three women who are struggling with home life, careers and their own identity. It is possible to have a balanced life, but you can't really think that you're having it all." (Kristin Hohenadel, IHT)



manian village of Sighet in the Carpathians before the arrival of the Nazis, delineating this community's daily rituals and routines in all their vanished ordinariness; and he shows us as well his surreal postwar journey from the horrors of Buchenwald to the glittering streets of liberated Paris, where he would meet writers like Beckett and listen to lectures by Sartre and Buber.

Because Wiesel has employed such a wide-angle lens in these pages, we finish "All Rivers" with a profound sense of how an entire community was brutally erased by the Nazis without warning, how abruptly the mundane business of work and study and play gave way to unimaginable horror.

At the same time, we are left to wonder at the strange trajectory of Wiesel's own life, which took a painfully shy boy from an isolated village, sent him to hell and back as a witness, and eventually thrust him on a world stage, the winner of the Nobel Peace Prize.

Writing with a new richness of emotional detail, Wiesel creates a touching portrait in these pages of his relationship with his father, a saintly but preoc-

cupied man whom Wiesel rarely saw or talked to before they were thrown together in Auschwitz and came to depend upon each other for emotional and physical survival. He also conjures up the hermetic world of his childhood and adolescence in Sighet, an existence dominated by prayer and study and contemplation.

As he points out in this volume, Wiesel realized he had a duty to testify to what he had seen in the camps and to speak for the survivors. Survivors, he writes, "have been subjected to countless analyses, dissected, exhibited, and made 'presentable' for theological, scientific, political and commercial purposes. Treated like objects, they have been insulted, belittled, and betrayed. To resist this tide survivors—and they are becoming ever fewer—have only voices, poor, ineffectual words, with which to defend the dead. So some of us weave these words into tales, stories and pleas for memory and decency. It is all we can do, for the living, and for the dead."

Michiko Kakutani is on the staff of The New York Times.

BRIDGE

By Alan Truscott

A student can always read a book or take lessons from an expert. An excellent compromise is to study the lesson notes that an expert uses to teach his own students. One famous teacher, Eddie Kantar, publishes his. His third series, which is on 13 areas, is available from him by sending \$25 to P.O. Box 427, Venice, California, 90294.

The diagrammed deal, from a section on first-trick play, shows the absolute importance of thinking the second that the dummy appears. South reached three no-trump by taking an old-fashioned route. A more modern player might reach the same contract after opening two clubs.

A combined 29 points is usually sufficient to make a game, but nevertheless South will fail here if he is not completely alert. The opening diamond lead sets a potentially dangerous trap. If South wins in dummy, his contract will definitely fail.

South must then study the whole hand and see the importance of unblocking clubs. Dummy's diamonds have the

NORTH			
♠ 6 4 2			
♥ 7 4 3			
♦ 10 9			
♣ Q J 8 5			
WEST			
♠ A 3			
♥ K 10 5			
♦ Q 8 7 4			
♣ 9 7 4			
EAST			
♠ J 10 9 8			
♥ 7 10 8 6			
♦ 2			
♣ 10 6 5 2			
SOUTH (D)			
♠ K Q 7 5			
♥ A Q 2			
♦ A K 6 3			
♣ A K			

East and West are vulnerable. The bidding: South West North East 3 N.T. Pass Pass Pass

Mishap in Fast-Breeder Reactor Stirs Nuclear Debate in Japan

By Sheryl WuDunn
New York Times Service

TOKYO—A recent accident at Japan's prototype fast-breeder nuclear reactor is rekindling a fierce debate over whether the government should continue pursuing an energy technology that other countries have abandoned.

No one was hurt in the Dec. 8 accident, in which two to three tons of sodium leaked from the reactor's secondary cooling system, and no radioactive materials were discharged.

But critics of the government's policy say the accident reflects shoddy construction and poor safety standards. Cit-

izens groups and some specialists also have said that the accident at the coastal Monju reactor might have been more threatening than the government had indicated.

"The incident is a grave one," said Tokunobu Nakajima, a professor of nuclear chemistry at Chuo University. "I cannot wholeheartedly trust an investigation that is conducted by the operators of Monju."

So far, only the Power Reactor & Nuclear Fuel Development Corp., or Doken, which manages the reactor, is investigating. Greenpeace Japan and specialists have called for an independent commission to investigate it and report

directly to Prime Minister Tomichi Murayama.

A company spokesman, who declined to be identified, said the reactor would be shut for at least six months. Other experts say the reactor, which essentially began operating this summer, could be closed for two years.

Supporters of the program say that since no radioactive material was released, the accident was not serious. But the incident has raised fears in the local community and among citizens groups that bureaucratic interests may end up promoting a dangerous energy technology without enough regard for safety. Critics emphasize that, unlike most

nuclear reactors around the world, the Monju reactor does not use uranium, but the more lethal element plutonium. Plans for such breeder reactors, once supported by many experts, have been dropped by most countries.

Japan says it has developed secure methods to prevent any diversion. But Saburo Watanabe, an architect who lives in the region of the reactor and represents a private citizens group, said: "At a time when the world is withdrawing from the breeder reactor business, Japan is not in a position to say that it is well prepared technologically to pursue it. I think the government will eventually have to shut down the reactor."

But while "Night" confined itself narrowly to these horrible events, "All Rivers" situates them in a broader context. Wiesel gives us a portrait of his family's life in the small Ro-

هنا من النهر

CAPITAL MARKETS ON MONDAY

Most Active International Bonds

The 250 most active international bonds traded through the Euroclear system for the week ending Dec. 15. Prices supplied by Telekurs.

Rnk	Name	Cpn	Maturity	Price	Yield	Rnk	Name	Cpn	Maturity	Price	Yield
1	Germany 5 1/2	10/18/00	100.5000	5.4700		185	France OAT	5 1/2	02/28/00	109.5500	7.7500
2	Germany 6 1/4	10/18/00	100.5000	5.4700		186	France OAT	6 1/4	04/25/00	105.2700	7.1200
3	Germany 6 1/2	10/18/00	100.5000	5.4700		187	France OAT	6 1/2	04/25/00	105.2700	7.1200
4	Germany 6 3/4	10/18/00	100.5000	5.4700		188	France OAT	6 3/4	04/25/00	105.2700	7.1200
5	Germany 7	10/18/00	100.5000	5.4700		189	France OAT	7	04/25/00	105.2700	7.1200
6	Germany 7 1/4	10/18/00	100.5000	5.4700		190	France OAT	7 1/4	04/25/00	105.2700	7.1200
7	Germany 7 1/2	10/18/00	100.5000	5.4700		191	France OAT	7 1/2	04/25/00	105.2700	7.1200
8	Germany 7 3/4	10/18/00	100.5000	5.4700		192	France OAT	7 3/4	04/25/00	105.2700	7.1200
9	Germany 8	10/18/00	100.5000	5.4700		193	France OAT	8	04/25/00	105.2700	7.1200
10	Germany 8 1/4	10/18/00	100.5000	5.4700		194	France OAT	8 1/4	04/25/00	105.2700	7.1200
11	Germany 8 1/2	10/18/00	100.5000	5.4700		195	France OAT	8 1/2	04/25/00	105.2700	7.1200
12	Germany 8 3/4	10/18/00	100.5000	5.4700		196	France OAT	8 3/4	04/25/00	105.2700	7.1200
13	Germany 9	10/18/00	100.5000	5.4700		197	France OAT	9	04/25/00	105.2700	7.1200
14	Germany 9 1/4	10/18/00	100.5000	5.4700		198	France OAT	9 1/4	04/25/00	105.2700	7.1200
15	Germany 9 1/2	10/18/00	100.5000	5.4700		199	France OAT	9 1/2	04/25/00	105.2700	7.1200
16	Germany 9 3/4	10/18/00	100.5000	5.4700		200	France OAT	9 3/4	04/25/00	105.2700	7.1200
17	Germany 10	10/18/00	100.5000	5.4700		201	France OAT	10	04/25/00	105.2700	7.1200
18	Germany 10 1/4	10/18/00	100.5000	5.4700		202	France OAT	10 1/4	04/25/00	105.2700	7.1200
19	Germany 10 1/2	10/18/00	100.5000	5.4700		203	France OAT	10 1/2	04/25/00	105.2700	7.1200
20	Germany 10 3/4	10/18/00	100.5000	5.4700		204	France OAT	10 3/4	04/25/00	105.2700	7.1200
21	Germany 11	10/18/00	100.5000	5.4700		205	France OAT	11	04/25/00	105.2700	7.1200
22	Germany 11 1/4	10/18/00	100.5000	5.4700		206	France OAT	11 1/4	04/25/00	105.2700	7.1200
23	Germany 11 1/2	10/18/00	100.5000	5.4700		207	France OAT	11 1/2	04/25/00	105.2700	7.1200
24	Germany 11 3/4	10/18/00	100.5000	5.4700		208	France OAT	11 3/4	04/25/00	105.2700	7.1200
25	Germany 12	10/18/00	100.5000	5.4700		209	France OAT	12	04/25/00	105.2700	7.1200
26	Germany 12 1/4	10/18/00	100.5000	5.4700		210	France OAT	12 1/4	04/25/00	105.2700	7.1200
27	Germany 12 1/2	10/18/00	100.5000	5.4700		211	France OAT	12 1/2	04/25/00	105.2700	7.1200
28	Germany 12 3/4	10/18/00	100.5000	5.4700		212	France OAT	12 3/4	04/25/00	105.2700	7.1200
29	Germany 13	10/18/00	100.5000	5.4700		213	France OAT	13	04/25/00	105.2700	7.1200
30	Germany 13 1/4	10/18/00	100.5000	5.4700		214	France OAT	13 1/4	04/25/00	105.2700	7.1200
31	Germany 13 1/2	10/18/00	100.5000	5.4700		215	France OAT	13 1/2	04/25/00	105.2700	7.1200
32	Germany 13 3/4	10/18/00	100.5000	5.4700		216	France OAT	13 3/4	04/25/00	105.2700	7.1200
33	Germany 14	10/18/00	100.5000	5.4700		217	France OAT	14	04/25/00	105.2700	7.1200
34	Germany 14 1/4	10/18/00	100.5000	5.4700		218	France OAT	14 1/4	04/25/00	105.2700	7.1200
35	Germany 14 1/2	10/18/00	100.5000	5.4700		219	France OAT	14 1/2	04/25/00	105.2700	7.1200
36	Germany 14 3/4	10/18/00	100.5000	5.4700		220	France OAT	14 3/4	04/25/00	105.2700	7.1200
37	Germany 15	10/18/00	100.5000	5.4700		221	France OAT	15	04/25/00	105.2700	7.1200
38	Germany 15 1/4	10/18/00	100.5000	5.4700		222	France OAT	15 1/4	04/25/00	105.2700	7.1200
39	Germany 15 1/2	10/18/00	100.5000	5.4700		223	France OAT	15 1/2	04/25/00	105.2700	7.1200
40	Germany 15 3/4	10/18/00	100.5000	5.4700		224	France OAT	15 3/4	04/25/00	105.2700	7.1200
41	Germany 16	10/18/00	100.5000	5.4700		225	France OAT	16	04/25/00	105.2700	7.1200
42	Germany 16 1/4	10/18/00	100.5000	5.4700		226	France OAT	16 1/4	04/25/00	105.2700	7.1200
43	Germany 16 1/2	10/18/00	100.5000	5.4700		227	France OAT	16 1/2	04/25/00	105.2700	7.1200
44	Germany 16 3/4	10/18/00	100.5000	5.4700		228	France OAT	16 3/4	04/25/00	105.2700	7.1200
45	Germany 17	10/18/00	100.5000	5.4700		229	France OAT	17	04/25/00	105.2700	7.1200
46	Germany 17 1/4	10/18/00	100.5000	5.4700		230	France OAT	17 1/4	04/25/00	105.2700	7.1200
47	Germany 17 1/2	10/18/00	100.5000	5.4700		231	France OAT	17 1/2	04/25/00	105.2700	7.1200
48	Germany 17 3/4	10/18/00	100.5000	5.4700		232	France OAT	17 3/4	04/25/00	105.2700	7.1200
49	Germany 18	10/18/00	100.5000	5.4700		233	France OAT	18	04/25/00	105.2700	7.1200
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51	Germany 18 1/2	10/18/00	100.5000	5.4700		235	France OAT	18 1/2	04/25/00	105.2700	7.1200
52	Germany 18 3/4	10/18/00	100.5000	5.4700		236	France OAT	18 3/4	04/25/00	105.2700	7.1200
53	Germany 19	10/18/00	100.5000	5.4700		237	France OAT	19	04/25/00	105.2700	7.1200
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55	Germany 19 1/2	10/18/00	100.5000	5.4700		239	France OAT	19 1/2	04/25/00	105.2700	7.1200
56	Germany 19 3/4	10/18/00	100.5000	5.4700		240	France OAT	19 3/4	04/25/00	105.2700	7.1200
57	Germany 20	10/18/00	100.5000	5.4700		241	France OAT	20	04/25/00	105.2700	7.1200
58	Germany 20 1/4	10/18/00	100.5000	5.4700		242	France OAT	20 1/4	04/25/00	105.2700	7.1200
59	Germany 20 1/2	10/18/00	100.5000	5.4700		243	France OAT	20 1/2	04/25/00	105.2700	7.1200
60	Germany 20 3/4	10/18/00	100.5000	5.4700		244	France OAT	20 3/4	04/25/00	105.2700	7.1200
61	Germany 21	10/18/00	100.5000	5.4700		245	France OAT	21	04/25/00	105.2700	7.1200
62	Germany 21 1/4	10/18/00	100.5000	5.4700		246	France OAT	21 1/4	04/25/00	105.2700	7.1200
63	Germany 21 1/2	10/18/00	100.5000	5.4700		247	France OAT	21 1/2	04/25/00	105.2700	7.1200
64	Germany 21 3/4	10/18/00	100.5000	5.4700		248	France OAT	21 3/4	04/25/00	105.2700	7.1200
65	Germany 22	10/18/00	100.5000	5.4700		249	France OAT	22	04/25/00	105.2700	7.1200
66	Germany 22 1/4	10/18/00	100.5000	5.4700		250	France OAT	22 1/4	04/25/00	105.2700	7.1200
67	Germany 22 1/2	10/18/00	100.5000	5.4700							
68	Germany 22 3/4	10/18/00	100.5000	5.4700							
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70	Germany 23 1/4	10/18/00	100.5000	5.4700							
71	Germany 23 1/2	10/18/00	100.5000	5.4700							
72	Germany 23 3/4	10/18/00	100.5000	5.4700							
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79	Germany 25 1/2	10/18/00	100.5000	5.4700							
80	Germany 25 3/4	10/18/00	100.5000	5.4700							
81	Germany 26	10/18/00	100.5000	5.4700							
82	Germany 26 1/4	10/18/00	100.5000	5.4700							
83	Germany 26 1/2	10/18/00	100.5000	5.4700							
84	Germany 26 3/4	10/18/00	100.5000	5.4700							
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91	Germany 28 1/2	10/18/00	100.5000	5.4700							
92	Germany 28 3/4	10/18/00	100.5000	5.4700							
93	Germany 29	10/18/00	100.5000	5.4700							
94	Germany 29 1/4	10/18/00	100.5000	5.4700							
95	Germany 29 1/2	10/18/00	100.5000	5.4700							
96	Germany 29 3/4	10/18/00	100.5000	5.4700							
97	Germany 30	10/18/00	100.5000	5.4700							
98	Germany 30 1/4	10/18/00	100.5000	5.4700							
99	Germany 30 1/2	10/18/00	100.5000	5.4700							
100	Germany 30 3/4	10/18/00	100.5000	5.4700							

Fundamentals Strong for Bonds in '96

By Carl Gewirtz
International Herald Tribune

PARIS—It would be too much to expect bond markets next year to repeat this year's record performance, but portfolio managers and advisers are still upbeat about the outlook. As Heinz W. Fesser, head of fixed-income strategy at Deutsche Bank AG's investment subsidiary in Frankfurt, says, "the fundamentals are still good."

These include the prospect for only moderate growth in the major economies, subdued inflation and continuing government efforts everywhere outside Japan to reduce budget deficits.

Tamed inflation has been a major factor fueling this year's rally, and John Llewellyn at Lehman Brothers in London sees the reduction in government deficits as the needed confirmation that inflation will remain low to sustain the next leg of the rally. In his view, there is a powerful further rally waiting to happen as "real" interest rates—what is left after subtracting for inflation—subside to their long-term historical average of around 2 percent.

At current yield levels, the real rate of interest on 10-year U.S. government bonds is around 3.75 percent and on 10-year German government debt around 4 percent.

But portfolio managers, looking at the short-term horizon of the next three

MONDAY, DECEMBER 18, 1995

PAGE 1

CYBERSCAPE

Stock Gains Come To Those Who Wait

By Reed Abelson
New York Times Service

NEW YORK — Now that Internet stocks such as Netscape Communications Corp. have taken off into the stratosphere, it might seem that the big shots who got in early have made the instant fortunes, leaving small investors in the dust.

Odds are, however, it is not too late to invest in the Internet, and it might even be far too early.

When the automobile business was born a century ago, investors had a choice of hundreds of manufacturers. But as David L. Lewis, a professor of business history at the University of Michigan, points out, for every auto company that became a giant, "there were a couple of hundred that did not make it, and people lost a substantial amount of money." While you might have bought stock in General Motors, you could just as easily have picked the United States Motor Corp., which failed in 1911.

With the Internet in its infancy, you would have to be clairvoyant to pick the GM of cyberstocks — but many are tempted to try. "I wish I could have gotten Netscape when it was lower," sighed Suzanne Bell of Houston, who, like most small investors, could not get the shares at their initial price of \$28 in August. Leary of paying two or three times that price in the first few days of trading, Ms. Bell passed up the stock, only to watch it rise to a high of \$174 before slipping back recently to \$130.50.

Forrester Research estimates that the overall Internet market will explode from about \$300 million today to \$10 billion by the year 2000. While investors may no longer be able to benefit from the gravity-defying run-ups of the first crop of new Internet issues, there will be plenty of chances to get in, analysts say.

"The central fear people have is they've missed out," said Roger B. McNamee of Integral Capital Partners, a Palo Alto, California, venture capital company. But as the Internet develops, he said, investors will be in a much better position to choose the issues that have the highest odds of paying off. If investors discount the current hype and wait for the inevitable shakeout, they will probably get another chance to buy many of today's hot stocks at lower prices.

He added that the growth of the market would bring the development of new ways to invest in Internet companies. Options, for example, do not yet exist for Netscape and other hot stocks, making concentrated bets difficult. "It's just coming off the runway here," said Byron R. Wenz, an investment strategist

It's not too late for small investors to pick big winners.

See LATE PAGE 1

Corporate America's Teen Spirit

Advertisers Target Younger and More Savvy Shoppers

By Anthony Faiola
Washington Post Service

WASHINGTON — A saleswoman approaches, and Beth Krizek, 16, turns to her friends with a grin that says watch and learn.

At a cosmetics counter, the high school junior studies a tube of lipstick as the saleswoman begins to suggest other complementary products.

But Beth, a veteran of such product pitches, remains a study in cool resistance. She demands free samples of the lipstick and a skin cream, but buys nothing. "I'll try them out," she quips, escaping with her samples, "and let you know what I think."

A tough sell. That's Beth Krizek, a teenager whose astute buying instincts and ability to see past sales pitches illustrate an important evolution in consumerism among today's youth. Teenagers are becoming increasingly savvy consumers at ever younger ages.

With Beth's generation making up the most economically powerful group of

teenagers since the baby boomers came of age, it is an evolution that is forcing U.S. advertisers to change, too.

A critical challenge facing advertisers is capturing teenagers' attention. Like the latest generation of a computer chip, teenagers are processing information at greater speeds, and corporate America is discovering that slowing them down long enough to pitch a product requires far greater entertainment in ads, quicker messages and greater facility, along with more graphic content. Why? Because this generation was weaned on fast-paced images through electronic games and music videos that became more spectacular, more graphically enhanced every year.

"It's when you do capture their attention that you have to be even more careful," said Peter Zollo, co-founder of Teenage Research Corp. "If you approach them in an insincere way, they'll see right through it. These kids are oodles of fools."

Today's teenagers are shrewder, more price-oriented shoppers than their parents or older brothers and sisters, marketing

analysts say. Lifestyle shifts, such as the rise in single-family households and dual-career families, have forced U.S. teenagers to take greater responsibilities in making purchasing decisions.

But this market savvy is also a byproduct of greater exposure to advertising — the targets for which have become ever younger.

Collectively, teenagers buy almost \$100 billion a year in apparel, athletic footwear, electronic entertainment, music, fast food and more. One study showed that 50 percent of teenagers spent an average of 2.7 hours a week at a mall, though often they are just hanging out and out shopping.

Still, in many product categories, teenagers outspend older consumers. They spend 9 percent more on soft drinks than the average consumer, and buy one of every four compact disks and pre-recorded music cassettes sold.

Teenagers' purchasing power will only bloom. Over the next two decades, Census Bureau data indicate teenagers will become the biggest force in U.S. consumerism since the boomers.

BP Says Algerian Gas Pact 'Very Close'

Compiled by Our Staff From Dispatches

LONDON — British Petroleum PLC said Sunday it was "very close" to concluding a \$3.5 billion natural gas agreement with Algeria's state-owned oil company, Sonatrach, after two years of talks.

BP, which signed a preliminary pact in 1993, has agreed to a production and marketing arrangement that would tap huge gas reserves in southern Algeria for export to Spain and Italy by 2002, according to sources familiar with the deal. An agreement could be signed within the

next two weeks, they said.

If completed as expected, the agreement would give BP a stake in one of the world's largest gas provinces and a piece of the marketing profits for gas sold to southern Europe, where demand for the fuel is expected to rise 25 percent in the next decade.

Ian Stewart, a BP spokesman, said Sunday the company was "very close to signing an agreement with Sonatrach for work in the Sahara desert." He declined further comment. The agreement covers a bar-

ren, rocky desert area 1,200 miles (1,920 kilometers) south of Algiers. The region, called In Salah, has an estimated 280 billion cubic meters (1.93 trillion cubic feet) of gas reserves.

Sonatrach and BP expect eventually to pump about 10 billion cubic meters of gas a year if a \$100 million appraisal by BP shows the project can be developed as expected, the sources said. BP produced about 13 billion cubic meters of gas worldwide last year. (Bloomberg, Reuters)

Lottery Probe in Britain

Britain's Public Accounts Committee is questioning the national lottery regulator, Peter Davis, about his ties with GTECH, a U.S. company that holds 22.5 percent of the British lottery operator Camelot, Bloomberg Business News reported.

The development comes less than a week after Richard Branson, chairman of Virgin Group PLC, accused GTECH of trying to bribe him to drop his bid for the lottery. GTECH and Camelot have denied the allegations.

Enron Refuses More Changes to Indian Project

Compiled by Our Staff From Dispatches

BOMBAY — Enron Corp. said Sunday it would not make more changes to its Indian power project after an influential politician made its revival conditional on further cost cuts.

Bal Thackeray, leader of the Shiv Sena party that heads the coalition government in Maharashtra state, said Saturday the U.S. company must cut its tariffs by a further 5 percent if the government is to lift its cancellation of the project.

"The only proposal we're willing to consider is the one with the government," said Diane Bazelides, a spokeswoman for Enron. She said the Houston-based company remained hopeful the project would proceed.

Shiv Sena and its ruling Hindu nationalist partner, the Bharatiya Janata Party, scrapped the 2,015 megawatt project on the state's west coast in August, saying its original \$2.8 billion cost was too expensive and its tariffs too high.

A government committee is recommending it revive the project, which would be the biggest foreign investment in India, after Enron agreed in renegotiations last month to lower its tariff to 1.89 rupees (5 cents) per kilowatt from 2.40.

Mr. Thackeray said Saturday he wanted it cut to 1.80 rupees. Although he holds no formal government post, he calls himself its "remote control" and was instrumental in the government's decision to renege on the project.

Enron also agreed to cut the cost of the generator by about \$300 million and to transfer further \$450 million of expenditure to a separate project.

The government had said it would decide whether to revive the project by Dec. 10, but a spokesman for Chief Minister Manohar Joshi said the cabinet would resume discussions on the matter Tuesday.

The passing of the Dec. 10 deadline automatically revived Enron's arbitration proceedings against the government, which is seeking more than \$300 million in damages if the project does not proceed.

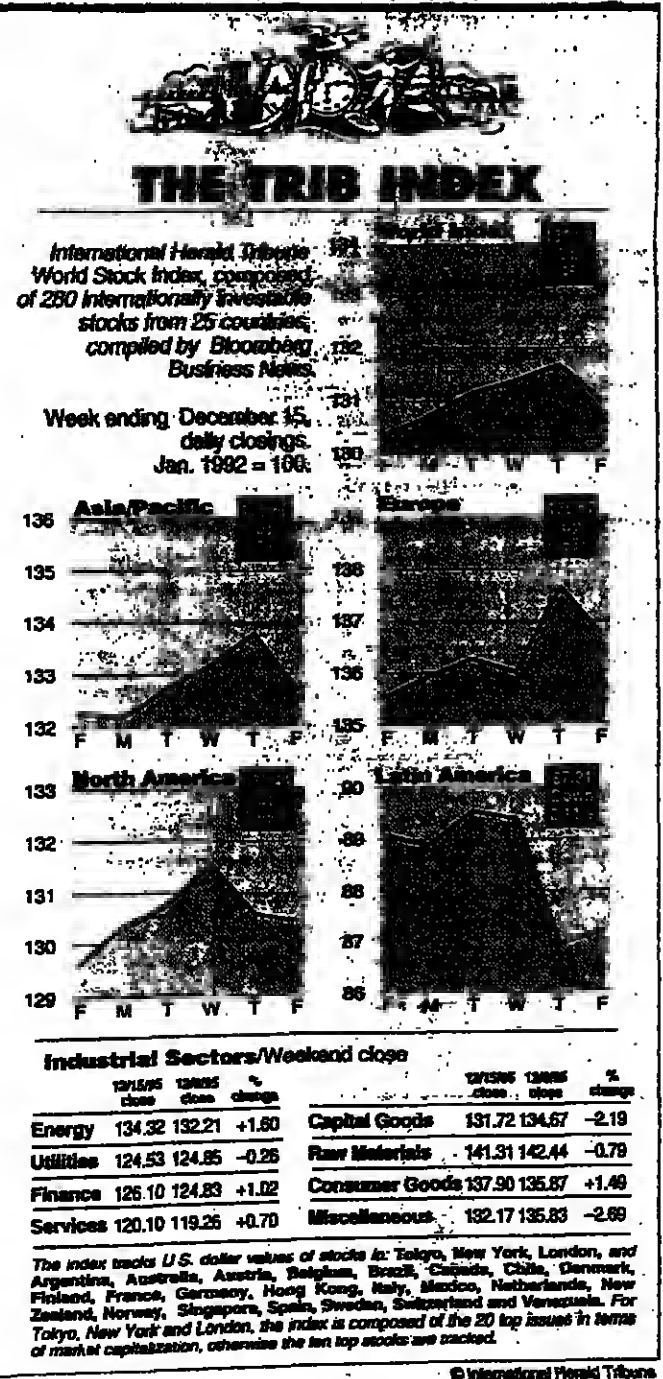
Mr. Thackeray was quoted as saying that if Enron proceeded with arbitration, the project would be scrapped. (Bloomberg, Reuters)

Privatization Delays

India's multibillion dollar telephone privatization program, snaggled in court and Parliament, risks being delayed until after general elections due by mid-1996, industry executives said Sunday, Reuters reported from New Delhi.

"The privatization of basic services has slowed down. There is uncertainty in the whole process," an executive of Hughes Ispat, a joint venture linking General Motors Corp.'s Hughes unit and Nippon Denro of India.

The Supreme Court on Friday ordered the government to award licenses, a pause in the plan to end the monopoly over basic telephone services.



For Tie Manufacturers, Holiday Season Means Annual Battle of Sexes

By James Hansen
Special to the Herald Tribune

MILAN — If you are an adult male, you are probably going to get a tie for Christmas. Around the world, from Japan to Europe to North America, about a third of all men's ties are sold in the month of December each year.

Odds are, a woman will give it to you. Roughly 40 percent of all men's ties are purchased by women, and the tie industry believes that 55 percent to 60 percent of all neckwear purchasing decisions are made by women — whoever is paying.

Unfortunately, there is a good chance she will pick out something you do not like. The other thing the industry believes is that, of ties purchased for men by women, more than a third are worn exactly once.

"We call those 'drawer ties,'" said Luciano Donatelli, managing director of Orsini, the tie-making subsidiary of Italy's Zegna textiles group. "They are worn just once, to show the gift is appreciated, before disappearing into permanent storage."

Men are unabashedly fussy about what they wear around their necks. James Joyce's reply to the painter Patrick Tuohy, who told the Irish writer he was going to capture his soul in a portrait, says it all: "Never mind about my soul, just make sure you get my tie right."

Orsini is the world's largest manufacturer of expensive men's ties, those retailing for \$70 and up. There are only a handful of big players in this market, worth an estimated 18 million ties a year, though there are a great many labels. The Zegna subsidiary makes 14 of them, including Givency, Les Copains, Dunhill, Romeo Gigli, Valentino and Karl Lagerfeld.

Orsini will sell roughly 2.8 million luxury ties in 1995, about 16 percent of a highly fragmented market with many small producers. The only comparable competitor is Mantero, another Italian company whose neckwear appears as Ferré, Yves St. Laurent, Hugo Boss, Ungaro and others.

The second echelon, at least in terms of volume, consists of names like Hermès, Giorgio Armani and Gianni Versace. Each is good for about 1 million ties a year.

The American satirist S. J. Perelman joked years ago about the social acid of Western man to dress for the evening in the "black-dyed tails of a sheep." Top hats and tails may have practically vanished, but the

silk tie — made, after all, of the spit of an Asian insect — is still obligatory.

In spite of the occasional French or German designer name, "one way or the other luxury ties are an Italian business," Mr. Donatelli said. "Even when we don't make them directly, we supply the fabric."

That fabric is still silk, either in its pure form or with another fiber, like wool or cashmere, woven in to create a particular textural effect. Polyester has made no inroads whatsoever at the high end of the tie market.

Neither has the trend toward more casual office wear. In fact, production and sales are reported to be up at all levels of the business, and even the managerial fad of "dress-down" Fridays in Japan and North America has acted as a stimulus for the market. "It has created a new niche, 'Friday wear,' that has brought the sector back from oblivion," Mr. Donatelli said.

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Now the Hard Part: Getting Euro-phoric

Compiled by Our Staff From Dispatches

BONN — The German government and commercial banks plan a sweeping marketing campaign to sell a wary public on the idea of giving up the Deutsche mark for a common currency called the Euro.

"The facts speak in favor of monetary union," said Karl-Heinz Wessel, president of the Federation of German Banks. "That's what we want to get across. This is the only way to ease the concerns and reservations of citizens."

But while Germany and other European countries begin to tackle the logistics of phasing in a common currency, economists said they were not moving fast enough to ensure that monetary union goes ahead on time in 1999.

"Markets generally still see 1999 as unlikely, but equally assume all political

speak will reaffirm it as the start date," said Alison Cottrell, an economist at PaineWebber International in London. "So all of that is water off a duck's back."

European leaders on Friday put aside months of bickering by agreeing to call a single European Union currency the Euro and by deciding on a timetable to introduce it in stages between 1999 and 2002.

Even staunch advocates of monetary union agree that there are flaws in the single currency's architecture, and they worry that it could become unglued in the event of a crisis.

"If it steadily becomes apparent that the Madrid decisions were flawed, then investors are likely to become increasingly nervous about the economic and political consequences of the whole project," said

Graham Bishop, European affairs adviser at Salomon Brothers in London.

A further worry comes from the future relationship between countries forming a single currency and those residing outside. Clearly, not all of the 15 EU members will join the new currency club either because they do not meet the economic criteria laid out in the Maastricht treaty or because they simply do not want to.

Prime Minister John Major of Britain ruled out having an exchange-rate mechanism between currencies that remained outside the single monetary unit.

He said there was a danger currencies outside the system could lose value and that these states would demand more money from the richer states to finance unemployment and other structural changes, "and there's no money for that."

(Reuters, Bloomberg, NYT)

CURRENCY RATES

Cross Rates

	12/15	12/16	% change
Australian dollar	1.48	1.47	-0.67
British pound	1.62	1.61	-0.62
Canadian dollar	0.71	0.70	-1.41
French franc	166.50	166.50	0.00
German mark	1.93	1.93	0.00
Italian lira	2036.00	2036.00	0.00
Japanese yen	146.00	146.00	0.00
Swiss franc	1.48	1.47	-0.67
U.S. dollar	0.71	0.70	-1.41

Other Dollar Values

Currency	12/15	12/16	% change
Australian dollar	1.48	1.47	-0.67
British pound	1.62	1.61	-0.62
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Japanese yen	146.00	146.00	0.00
Swiss franc	1.48	1.47	-0.67
U.S. dollar	0.71	0.70	-1.41

Forward Rates

Currency	30-day	60-day	90-day
Australian dollar	1.48	1.47	1.46
British pound	1.62	1.61	1.60
Canadian dollar	0.71	0.70	0.69
French franc	166.50	166.50	166.50
German mark	1.93	1.93	1.93
Italian lira	2036.00	2036.00	2036.00
Japanese yen	146.00	146.00	146.00
Swiss franc	1.48	1.47	1.46
U.S. dollar	0.71	0.70	0.69

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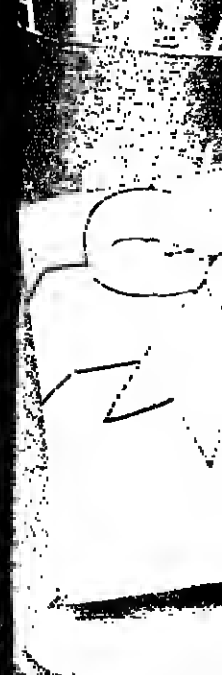
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Asian Co.

Week Ahead:

Country	City	Address	Phone	Telex	Radio	Teletype	Facsimile	Internet	Other
Asia-Pacific									
China	Beijing	100000	86-10-63000000	955					
China	Shanghai	200000	86-21-63000000	955					
China	Guangzhou	510000	86-20-63000000	955					
China	Shenzhen	518000	86-755-63000000	955					
China	Chongqing	400000	86-23-63000000	955					
China	Xi'an	710000	86-29-63000000	955					
China	Harbin	150000	86-451-63000000	955					
China	Qingdao	266000	86-532-63000000	955					
China	Nanjing	210000	86-25-63000000	955					
China	Wuhan	430000	86-27-63000000	955					
China	Chengdu	610000	86-28-63000000	955					
China	Yantai	264000	86-535-63000000	955					
China	Zibo	255000	86-533-63000000	955					
China	Jinan	250000	86-531-63000000	955					
China	Shijiazhuang	050000	86-311-63000000	955					
China	Hebei	050000	86-311-63000000	955					
China	Shandong	266000	86-532-63000000	955					
China	Henan	450000	86-371-63000000	955					
China	Guangdong	510000	86-20-63000000	955					
China	Guangxi	530000	86-771-63000000	955					
China	Yunnan	650000	86-871-63000000	955					
China	Sichuan	610000	86-28-63000000	955					
China	Shaanxi	710000	86-29-63000000	955					
China	Inner Mongolia	010000	86-471-63000000	955					
China	Heilongjiang	150000	86-451-63000000	955					
China	Shanxi	030000	86-351-63000000	955					
China	Guizhou	550000	86-851-63000000	955					
China	Hubei	430000	86-27-63000000	955					
China	Chongqing	400000	86-23-63000000	955					
China	Shanghai	200000	86-21-63000000	955					
China	Beijing	100000	86-10-63000000	955					
China	Guangzhou	510000	86-20-63000000	955					
China	Shenzhen	518000	86-755-63000000	955					
China	Chongqing	400000	86-23-63000000	955					
China	Xi'an	710000	86-29-63000000	955					
China	Harbin	150000	86-451-63000000	955					
China	Qingdao	266000	86-532-63000000	955					
China	Nanjing	210000	86-25-63000000	955					
China	Wuhan	430000	86-27-63000000	955					
China	Chengdu	610000	86-28-63000000	955					
China	Yantai	264000	86-535-63000000	955					
China	Zibo	255000	86-533-63000000	955					
China	Jinan	250000	86-531-63000000	955					
China	Shijiazhuang	050000	86-311-63000000	955					
China	Hebei	05000							

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Asian Companies Thirst for Capital

Agence France-Presse
SINGAPORE — New shares valued at about \$41 billion are expected to be listed on Asian stock markets in 1996, indicating the region's growing appetite for capital, a study released here Sunday said.

About \$36 billion was raised this year, according to equity research carried out by Salomon Brothers Inc. on eight Asian stock markets.

The potential primary share issues in 1996 are equivalent to about 3.3 percent of market capitalization of stock markets in Hong Kong, Singapore, Malaysia, Thailand, the Philippines, Indonesia, South Korea and Taiwan.

"The actual figure attained next year will clearly be a function of market conditions,

but the key point is that there still is a strong demand for new capital within the region," the American investment house said.

The capital is required to fund corporate expansion and privatization, notably in infrastructure-related areas, it said.

New share-issue milestones next year include more issues of so-called H shares — shares of Chinese companies listed in Hong Kong — and the floating of Singapore Power, Korea Telecom and several large privatizations in Indonesia in sectors such as steel, power and banking.

South Korean companies are expected to lead the call for capital by issuing \$11 billion in new shares, followed by Indonesia with \$8 billion.

Elsewhere in Asia, new share issues are

expected to hit \$4.8 billion in Malaysia, \$4.5 billion in Thailand, \$4 billion in Hong Kong and Taiwan and \$2.5 billion in Singapore and the Philippines.

Salomon Brothers warned that a strong appetite for capital on the back of poor regional market performance over the past two years pointed to "continuing pressure on the pricing and size of new issues."

It said that companies should find a receptive investment audience if their fundamentals were viewed favorably and were attractively priced, among other factors.

In a separate study, Salomon Brothers said it did not expect interest rates in the Philippines, Malaysia and Thailand to drop in the first half of 1996 because their economies were overheating.

Sanyo Pins Hopes On Silicon Panels

Agence France-Presse
TOKYO — Sanyo Electric Co. is betting that its new cost-saving silicon technology for making color display panels for notebook computers will help it become a player in a multibillion-dollar market dominated by Sharp Corp. and NEC Corp.

Yukinori Kuwano, the head of research and development for Sanyo and something of a pioneer in silicon technology, predicted that the new process would allow Sanyo to surpass its larger rivals to lead the market.

"All companies want to have the number one position," he said recently. "That is no problem for us."

Mr. Kuwano is considered one of the leading gurus of amorphous silicon, which is used for making solar cells as well as the TFT-LCD panels, which stands for thin-film transistor liquid-crystal display.

In 1980, Mr. Kuwano helped Sanyo develop the world's first calculator powered by solar cells. Two years later, the company unveiled the first TFT-LCD television system.

Sanyo has since focused on amorphous silicon solar cells and is now the world leader. In the more lucrative TFT-LCD technology, however, Sanyo lost an early lead to Sharp, now the world leader, and has slipped

behind NEC, which has invested heavily in the technology.

But Sanyo hopes to win back its pioneer status by replacing the amorphous silicon in its panels with polysilicon, a material that can be processed at lower temperatures and with lower-cost materials.

Smaller screens accounted for a third of the global TFT-LCD market in 1994, or around \$2 billion, but Sanyo expects that to increase to \$5 billion by the end of next year.

At an estimated cost savings of 75 percent for a typical 4-inch (10-centimeter) panel, Mr. Kuwano is hoping that Sanyo can quickly recoup its 6 billion yen (\$58.8 million) investment in the technology.

Sony Venture in China

Sony Corp. and two Chinese companies have agreed to set up a \$410 million joint venture to manufacture television sets and picture tubes primarily for export, Agence France-Presse reported Sunday from Shanghai.

The venture, Suogang Image Co., will open next year in the Wangqiao Industrial Development Zone of Shanghai's Pudong New Zone, AFP said, quoting the Xinhua news agency. The Chinese partners are Shanghai Guangdong Stock Co. and Shanghai Vacuum and Electronics Stock Co.

SHORT COVER

Israel Cuts Grants to Foreign Firms

JERUSALEM (Bloomberg) — The Israeli government has accepted a proposal to reduce government grants to foreign investors to 34 percent from 38 percent, Eli Yosef, a Finance Ministry spokesman, said Sunday.

The reduction will go into effect Jan. 1. The grant will be reduced by a further 4 percentage points, to 30 percent, as of Jan. 1, 1997, said Dani Bloch, a spokesman for the Israel Export Institute, an arm of the Ministry of Industry and Trade.

Those in favor of the cut said the incentives were no longer necessary because Israel offered companies enough in the way of opportunities — including a skilled high-tech work force.

But Micha Harish, minister of industry and trade, said it was a move that could discourage companies from investing in Israel and harm developing areas using the grants to attract investors.

Posec and Egypt to Build Steel Plant

CAIRO (AFP) — Posec of South Korea and Egypt agreed on Sunday to set up what would be the Middle East's largest steel factory in a \$250 million deal, Ibrahim Fawzi, the Egyptian Industry Minister said.

Posec, a branch of Pohang Iron & Steel Co., initiated the deal to build a factory outside Cairo to eventually produce 140,000 tons of high-quality steel a year, Mr. Fawzi said.

Chip Shortage Hits VideoLogic Profit

LONDON (Bloomberg) — VideoLogic Group PLC, a British electronic and computer components company, said a shortage of silicon chips depressed sales and prevented the company from reducing its first-half pretax loss by more than 3 percent.

VideoLogic posted a loss of £3.6 million (\$5.5 million) in the six months to Sept. 30, compared with £3.7 million a year earlier. Sales rose 19 percent, to £6.55 million.

Taiwan Eases Foreign Stock Limits

TAIPEI (Combined Dispatches) — Taiwan will double to \$400 million the limit on stock investments by foreign institutions to improve the performance of its equity market, the Central Bank of China said Sunday. It did not say when it would take effect.

"Many investors have reached the \$200 million ceiling and want to add funds," said George Chou, deputy director-general of the central bank's foreign exchange unit. (AP, Bloomberg)

The Week Ahead: World Economic Calendar, Dec. 18-22

A schedule of this week's economic and financial events, compiled for the International Herald Tribune by Bloomberg Business News.

Asia-Pacific

Expected This Week
Canberra: Australian Treasurer Ralph Willis issues midyear review of government budget forecasts.
New Delhi: Text India, an exhibition of Indian textile products organized by India Trade Promotion Council Organization, Dec. 22 - Dec. 31.
Singapore: November retail sales figures; November consumer price index.

Monday

Dec. 18
Sydney: October price indexes for manufacturing materials; October import price index data.
Tokyo: Ministry of Finance releases November trade balance; Vice Finance Minister Kyousuke Shinozawa holds regularly scheduled press conference.

Tuesday

Dec. 19
Sydney: November merchandise imports data.
Tokyo: Cabinet ministers hold news conference; Economic Planning Agency releases October household spending survey; Bank of Japan releases November money supply.

Wednesday

Dec. 20
Sydney: Reserve Bank of Australia November bulletin released; Westpac Melbourne Institute Leading Index for October released.
Taipei: Ministry of Economic Affairs releases November export orders figures and industrial production index.

Thursday

Dec. 21
Melbourne: November new motor vehicle registrations figures released.
Tokyo: Vice Finance Minister Kyousuke Shinozawa holds press conference.
Wellington: November housing permit figures released; overseas trade.

Friday

Dec. 22
Tokyo: Cabinet ministers hold news conference; Matsumoto Kenko Co. lists its shares on Japan's over-the-counter stock exchange.

Europe

Frankfurt: German November M3 money supply.
Madrid: Finance Ministry publishes November budget deficit figures; Bank of Spain publishes Spain's current account balance figures for October.
Zurich: Start of Elektrowatt AG's public offer period for shares of Landis & Gyr AG.

London:

November Public-Sector Borrowing Requirement.
October producer prices.
October industrial production.
September industrial orders released.
Voorburg, Netherlands: October industrial sales.

London:

December financial statistics.
October industrial orders figures; industrial output.
Earnings expected: Eurotherm.

London:

M4 November provisional estimates; November balance of trade with non-EU countries.
Madrid: Third-quarter economic growth.
October industrial production.
Stockholm: October retail sales data.

London:

Third-quarter gross domestic product and balance of payments.
Paris: November and third-quarter wages; Bank of France monetary policy council meets.

London:

Revised third-quarter capital expenditure.
Paris: October trade balance; final November consumer price index.
Voorburg, Netherlands: December consumer confidence and November producer confidence figures.

Americas

Bogota: Cemex SA de CV and Cementos Paz de Rio SA. From Dec. 20 to Dec. 21.

Santiago: Banking superintendent releases statistics on bank loan portfolios and profits; Central bank releases November trade statistics and October indicator of economic activity.

Mexico City:

October unemployment figures; October retail sales.
October manufacturing report.
Washington: The U.S. Agriculture Department's weekly report on planting progress for seven crops; Treasury Department holds bid auction.

New York:

Johnson Redbook research service's weekly survey of total sales at more than 20 U.S. department, discount and chain stores.
Washington: Federal Open Market Committee meets; final third-quarter gross domestic product figures.

Ottawa:

October trade and retail trade report.
Washington: October merchandise trade; trade deficit in goods and services for October; Mortgage Bankers Association of America releases weekly report on mortgage applications.

Washington:

Initial weekly state unemployment compensation insurance claims; Federal Reserve reports weekly money supply; Treasury Department releases November budget statement; personal income and spending for October.

Washington:

Federal Reserve releases minutes from its Nov. 15 policy-setting session; Federal Reserve releases report on commercial and industrial loans at commercial banks.
Ottawa: October gross domestic product report.

LATE: Still Time for Cyberstocks

Continued from Page 11

for Morgan Stanley & Co.

Of course, it is difficult not to envy the people, usually company insiders and venture capitalists, who have already made enormous sums on Netscape, UUNET Technologies Inc. and Spyglass Inc.

But it may help to realize that the temporary scarcity of such stocks, more than their fundamental value, is what has led to the out-of-sight price rises.

Take Netscape, which develops software that helps people use personal computers and modems to navigate the Internet. Although Netscape is considered a fine little company, its products are not yet profitable. Yet investors have awarded the company a market value of \$5 billion, about 120 times its sales

over the past four quarters.

Netscape On-Line Communications, which helps people get onto the Internet, has a market value 38 times its sales. Spyglass, which also develops software for navigating the Internet, goes for 136 times its tiny revenue. By contrast, Microsoft Corp., which really does dominate its industry, has a market value of less than 8 times its \$7 billion in revenue.

"The equity market has failed to differentiate between the extremely large overall market opportunity and the various business opportunities available to individual companies," said Jonathan H. Cohen, an analyst with Smith Barney, who recommends that investors steer clear for now.

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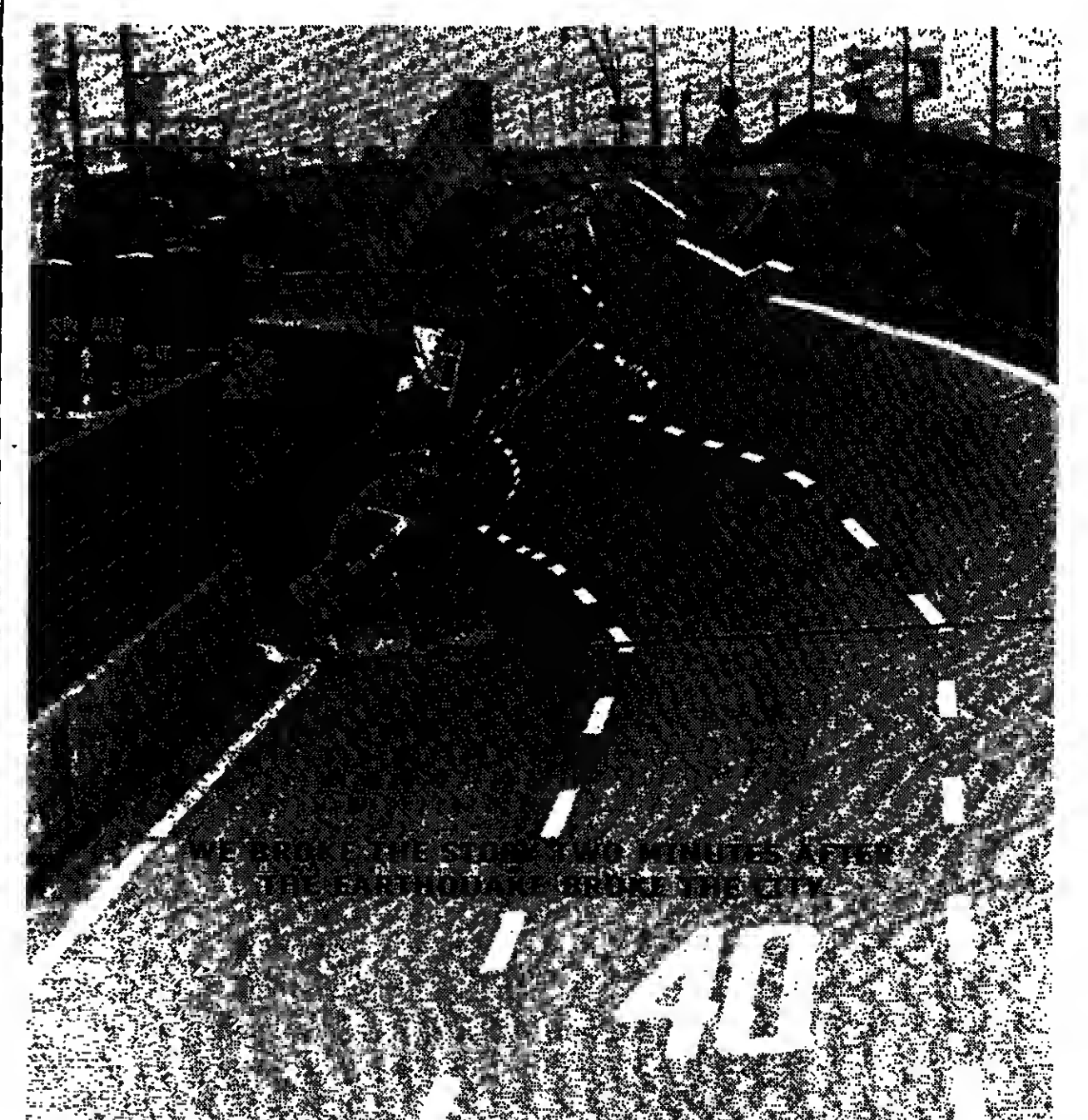
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SPORTS

The Shaq May Be Back, But Magic Now Knows: Penny's From Heaven

By Jennifer Frey
Washington Post Service

ORLANDO, Florida — Antfernee "Penny" Hardaway stayed in the Orlando Magic locker room long after the team's shoot-around ended on Friday morning, watching as the big guy — Shaquille O'Neal — emerged into the outer hallway, where cameras, microphones and note pads were poised for a few words of wisdom regarding Shaq's long-anticipated comeback.

The appearance of Shaq, huge at 332 pounds (150 kilograms), his body appropriately draped in a "Big Dawg" T-shirt, caused a commotion in Orlando Arena, an entourage recording his every facial expression as he barreled his way to the players' parking lot.

A few minutes later, Hardaway slipped quietly from the locker room and peered around, almost relieved, at the near-empty hall. Look closely enough, and you could have seen a small smile on his face.

After six weeks of carrying the Magic, Hardaway is more than happy to return the burden to O'Neal, who returned from a thumb injury to reclaim his team and his city on Friday night. The city was easy: The sellout crowd stood and roared its welcome. Shaq's mere presence lending electricity to the night. The team, though, may not be so easy. Something happened during those six weeks Shaq spent in convalescence. The Magic became Hardaway's team.

How did it happen? Well, maybe it was easy to overlook Hardaway's exceptional talent when he shared the floor with Shaq, a player who — by mere size alone — tends to capture the attention of all things living

the moment he gets near a basketball. And maybe Hardaway simply blossomed during the first six weeks of this, his third NBA season, a time frame that happened to coincide with Shaq's absence from the court.

Whatever the reason — and most Magic observers attribute it to a little of both — Hardaway has left a lasting impression, his scoring average (25.9) fourth in the league and the Magic's stunning Shaqlless record (17-5) attributed in large part to Hardaway.

"I don't think I became the big man while he was gone," Hardaway said, with his usual modesty. "I think a lot of people just started noticing me, because he was gone and my points were going up. I think the combination — my average going up and the team winning the way we were — just made a lot more people notice me."

Hardaway is shy, sometimes painfully awkward around strangers, and he has a tough time talking about himself. Still, his history has been well-chronicled: the mother, Fae Patterson, who left him in first grade to pursue a career as a lounge singer; the tough but loving grandmother, Louise Hardaway, who took him into her three-room house at 2977 Forest Street in Memphis, Tennessee, a dead-end address on a dead-end street in a dead-end part of town; the things who ran his neighborhood and once robbed him — giving him a bullet wound in his house; the academic troubles that caused embarrassing problems when he arrived at the University of Memphis; the mega-trade between the Golden State Warriors and Orlando that made him a Magic rookie in 1993.

The Magic said then that

Hardaway's personally-requested workout 48 hours prior to the draft is what made Orlando dramatically change course and decide not to retain its draft rights to Chris Webber, who was selected No. 1 by the Magic and then traded to Golden State for the rights to Hardaway.

And, oh, the Magic brass is happy about that decision now. The qualities Orlando saw in Hardaway that day — the heart, the grit and the determination — are exactly why the 24-year-old was capable of carrying the Magic during Shaq's absence this season. Just ask Hardaway's teammates.

"I didn't know he was that good," said Jon Koncak, who played center in Shaq's absence. "His unselfishness, his determination — these are characteristics that don't always come with that kind of talent, and when you take a guy like that and put him in a situation where he really carries his team on his shoulders, well, that's how you know he's one of the great ones."

Hardaway gets embarrassed when people mention his name in the same company as Magic Johnson, Larry Bird and Michael Jordan. And Jordan has made it clear that Penny still has to wait a little longer before he can become king. But that's okay for Hardaway and the Magic, who know Shaq returned — that the team has a new leader.

"(Shaq's) going to have to adjust to Penny being in the post, running the team a little differently now," said Horace Grant, the Magic's power forward. "It might take a little while."

The Magic ran only a few



The Magic's Shaquille O'Neal returned to action Friday night, broken thumb healed.

aged to score 26 points in 24 minutes. Hardaway had a mere 16, well below his average, but he also had 11 assists, and it's no coincidence that — with Hardaway running the plays — four Magic players finished the game in double-digits.

Maybe Hardaway's average will slip now that Shaq is back, and maybe all the hype and excitement will lessen as well. The lesson, though, has been learned. With Penny around, the Magic survived without Shaq's thunderous dunks and

intimidating inside presence. But could the Magic — with or without Shaq — survive without Penny?

"Take it from me," Koncak said, when asked that question. "That is something we really don't want to find out about."

Bulls Are Hurting, But Still Winning

The Associated Press

Michael Jordan winced in pain on the Chicago Bulls bench, his dislocated right index finger soaking in a cup of ice water. Sitting beside him was Dennis Rodman, whose aching calves were being massaged by a therapist.

It was Scottie Pippen time. "When Michael hurt his finger, we knew there was going to be a change in our offense," said the Bulls' coach, Phil Jackson, after Pippen's 33 points, 13 rebounds and six assists paced the Bulls to a 108-88 victory over the Los Angeles Lakers Saturday night in Chicago.

"Scottie took it upon himself to be more aggressive."

With the finger on his shooting hand bandaged from the second quarter on, Jordan scored 20 points but was only five-for-20 from the floor. Rodman, despite his injury, grabbed 15 rebounds as the Bulls earned their ninth consecutive victory and improved their NBA-best record to 19-2. They are 10-0 at home.

Cedric Ceballos scored 27 points for the Lakers.

Toni Kukoc scored 22 points for Chicago, which also played without backup center Bill Wennington (back spasms).

Jordan was concerned about his finger problem, which first surfaced a month ago. "I haven't been able to get rid of the swelling," said Jordan, who is looking to lead the league in scoring for the eighth time. "I'm pretty sure it's going to be like this all season."

Harold Williams scored 11 of his 28 points in the fourth quarter, and the Atlanta Hawks scored nine unanswered points in the final 1:38 to beat the visiting Denver Nuggets. The Hawks stopped a five-game home losing streak as they won for only the second time in their last nine games. Denver lost its seventh straight at

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Batistuta Strikes as Fiorentina Closes In Fowler's Brilliant Double Sinks Manchester United

Reuters

The prolific Argentine striker Gabriel Batistuta lifted Fiorentina to second place in Italy's Serie A with two goals in his team's 3-1 victory Sunday at Atalanta.

Fiorentina's third successive victory leaves the team just a

SOCCER ROUNDUP

point behind the league leader, AC Milan, held 1-1 at home by struggling Torino.

Milan recovered well from the shock of conceding a fourth-minute penalty, courtesy of Ruggiero Rizzitelli, with Zvonimir Boban equalizing in the 11th minute.

But, with George Weah and Roberto Baggio looking badly out of form, the first division pacemakers slipped to its second successive tie at San Siro Stadium.

Parma, second at the start of the day, fell back to third after struggling to a last-gasp 1-1 tie at Bari by a team beaten 7-1 at Cremonese last week.

Parma fell behind to Igor Protti's 45th-minute penalty. The team's Colombian striker, Faustino Asprilla, was then dismissed for dissent. However, Alessandro Meili's 89th-minute effort allowed Parma to extend its unbeaten run to 11 matches.

Lazio moved into fourth place, five points behind Par-

ma, with a 6-3 victory over Sampdoria.

Giuseppe Signori, without a goal since October, recaptured his scoring touch by scoring twice. Lazio brought its run of three successive league defeats to a halt.

Lazio's arch-rival Roma registered its first victory in seven years at Napoli with goals from the Swedish midfielder Jonas Thern and a second-half substitute, Marco Delvecchio, later shown the red card for dissent.

The veteran manager Giovanni Trapattoni's resurgent Cagliari stretched its unbeaten run to five games by becoming the first club to beat Vicenza on its home ground in 27 months.

ENGLAND Two goals from Robbie Fowler sank Manchester United on Sunday as Liverpool outplayed its big English Premier League rival.

United stays in second place, the 2-0 away defeat leaving it still seven points short of Newcastle, which beat Everton, 1-0, on Saturday and two points ahead of the Tottenham Hotspur, which had climbed to third with a 1-0 victory at Wimbledon.

With Eric Cantona and Ryan Giggs largely subdued, Liverpool dominated for long periods and could have scored more goals.

Fowler's first goal came on the stroke of halftime when his 25-meter curling free kick com-

pletely wrong-footed the United keeper, Peter Schmeichel.

The second arrived three minutes from the end of regulation time on a flowing move out of defense with Fowler chipping over the advancing Schmeichel.

Liverpool moved up to fifth, four points behind United but 11 shy of Newcastle. United's manager, Alex Ferguson, said: "I thought in the first half we were dreadful. In the second half we improved slightly."

NETHERLANDS In its first Dutch league match since winning the world club title in Tokyo, Ajax stroled to a 3-0 victory Sunday at lowly Utrecht.

Marc Overmars gave Ajax a ninth-minute lead and the Finnish midfielder Jari Litmanen made it 2-0 from the penalty spot in the 25th minute. Litmanen was on target again seven minutes from halftime, tapping in a rebound after his shot had struck the goalkeeper, Jan-Willem van Ede.

Ajax, with 15 victories and a draw from 16 games, stays five points clear of PSV Eindhoven, 3-0 winners at home Saturday to Fortuna Sittard.

PORTUGAL The Portuguese champion, Porto — unbeaten this season — crushed Tirsense, 5-0, at home Sunday to maintain its league lead of

five points. Struggling Tirsense's resistance faltered 12 minutes into the game when the Brazilian midfielder Emerson Costa opened the scoring.

SPAIN Espanyol of Barcelona regained its grip on first place with a 2-1 victory Sunday at Real Oviedo, overtaking neighbors Barcelona — which beat Sporting Gijon, 1-0, Saturday at home with a goal by George Popescu — and Atletico Madrid, which played at Valencia in a late game Sunday.

SPORTS

Victory Over Dolphins Gives Comeback Bills the AFC East

The Miami Dolphins, who spent millions on players they hoped would take them to the Super Bowl, might have done better with David White.

Yes, David White, a linebacker cut three times since his rookie year in 1993. White combined with Thurman Thomas to give the Bills a 23-20 victory over the Dolphins on Sunday that gave Buffalo its sixth AFC East title in eight years and left the Dolphins in deep trouble.

For Buffalo (10-5), the AFC's Super Bowl representative from 1990 to 1993, the victory capped a comeback from a 7-9 season last year. Miami (8-7), now needs help to make the playoffs in a year it was shooting for the Super Bowl and, perhaps, secure the job of Don Shula, the winningest coach in NFL history.

Miami had come back from a 10-point halftime deficit to tie the game at 13, then tied it again 20-20 early in the fourth quarter. But on a first down at the Miami 9-yard line, Dolphins quarterback Dan Marino tried to find Irving Fryar. White, cut by both the Bills and Patriots since 1993 and starter only because of injuries, leaped, pulled the ball down, and returned it 8 yards to the 11.

Three plays later, Steve Christie kicked his third field goal of the day with 6:11 left for a lead that held up in a finale marked by a fight between Bryan Cox of Miami and Buffalo's Carwell Gardner.

Redskins 35, Rams 23 The Washington Redskins looked a lot like the early-season St. Louis Rams.

Tom Carter and Tony Woods scored defensive touchdowns in a 35-23 victory Sunday that all but killed the Rams' playoff hopes. The Rams (7-8) have lost eight of their last 11, the last four by a combined score of 152-69.

Mistakes overshadowed a second-consecutive 300-yard passing game from Mark Rypien, who was 34-of-50 for 340 yards, and negated the Rams' advantage in total yards, 434-254.

The Redskins (5-10) won for only the second time in seven games, although the other victory in that span was over Dallas.

Browns 26, Bengals 10 It was the most bitter-sweet victory in the Cleveland Browns' 50 years at Cleveland Stadium, because it may well have been their last.

The Browns beat the Cincinnati Bengals 26-10 Sunday before 55,575 rowdy fans who were unsure if they'd ever get to watch an NFL game in Cleveland again. The Browns (5-10) close their season at Jacksonville next week, and the team owner, Art Modell, plans to move the franchise to Baltimore next year.

Although there were about 12,000 unsold tickets and nearly 11,000 no-shows, the "Dawg Pound" bleachers at the east end of the stadium were packed until the end. Fans there ripped up some of the long bench seats and tossed them toward the field late in the game.

The victory ended the Browns' six-game losing streak, which began the week news of the move broke. It also finished off the "Bengals' last playoff hopes; even with a victory, Cincinnati (6-9) would have been a long shot to capture a wild-card spot.

Vinny Testaverde, listed as questionable because of a sore hip, started for Cleveland and passed for 241 yards and two touchdowns. Matt Stover, who last week surpassed Nick Lowery as the most accurate kicker in NFL history, directed four field

goals for a team-record total of 29 this year.

Eagles 21, Cardinals 20 The Philadelphia Eagles showed their former coach, Buddy Ryan, that their tough defense didn't leave when he did.

The Eagles defense forced five second-half turnovers and limited the Cardinals to field goals to earn a home playoff game with a 21-20 comeback victory over Arizona on Sunday.

Rodney Peete's 37-yard touchdown pass to Calvin Williams in the fourth quarter helped Philadelphia (10-5) overcome a 17-point deficit.

Bears 31, Buccaneers 10 The Chicago Bears kept their playoff hopes alive and killed Tampa Bay's postseason chances. Rashawn Salaam rushed for a career-high 134 yards and three touchdowns as the Bears beat the Buccaneers 31-10 Sunday.

The Bears (8-7), who won for only the second time in seven games after a 6-2 start, remained a postseason possibility thanks to Carolina's victory over Atlanta. Chicago would qualify for the playoffs if it beats Philadelphia at Soldier Field next week and Atlanta falls to San Francisco or Minnesota loses one of its final two games, against San Francisco and Cincinnati.

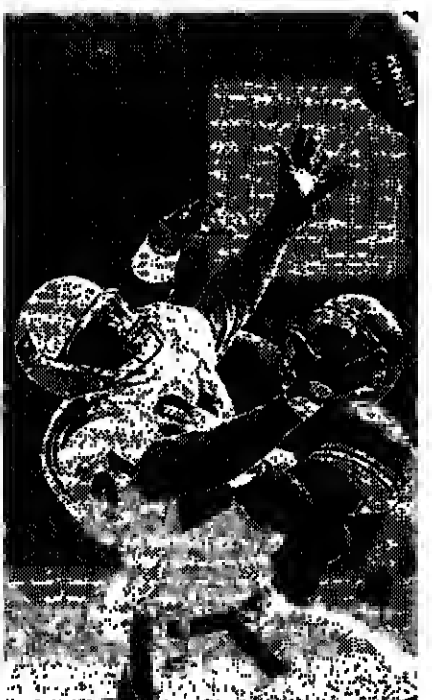
Tampa Bay (7-8), which buoyed its playoff hopes with a victory over Green Bay last week, couldn't survive Trent Dilfer's four turnovers Sunday.

Panthers 21, Falcons 17 The longest play in the Carolina Panthers' history produced their biggest comeback yet.

Kerry Collins linked up with Willie Green on an 89-yard touchdown pass with 7:06 remaining Sunday, completing the Panthers' comeback from a two-touchdown deficit and giving them a 21-17 victory over the Atlanta Falcons.

Carolina (7-8) turned away a fourth-and-goal play with 67 seconds left and severely damaged Atlanta's postseason hopes.

The Falcons (8-7) face the unlikely prospect of having to defeat San Francisco in their season finale if they are to have any chance of making the playoffs. Atlanta has



Patriots' Ricky Reynolds deflects a pass aimed for the Steelers' Ernie Mills.

lost its last three games to the 49ers by a combined 106 points.

Carolina, already assured of finishing as the winningest expansion team in NFL history, erased deficits of 14-0 and 17-7 on the way to winning for the fifth time in eight games at Clemson's Memorial Stadium, the Panthers' first-year home away from home.

Lions 44, Jaguars 0 The Detroit Lions know how to finish fast. Rarely have they been this powerful.

Barry Sanders ran for two touchdowns, Scott Mitchell passed for two more and the high-flying Lions breezed to a 44-0 rout over the Jacksonville Jaguars on Sunday.

The Lions (9-6), who extended their winning streak to six games, have scored 196 points in their last six games and remain in strong contention for a playoff berth. If Minnesota loses Monday night at San Francisco, the Lions will make the playoffs for the fourth time in five seasons.

Oilers 23, Jets 6 Steve McNair made his first NFL start and threw a 35-yard touchdown pass, leading the Houston Oilers to a drab 23-6 victory over the New York Jets on Sunday.

McNair's touchdown pass to Haywood Jeffries with 38 seconds left in the first quarter and a 53-yard pass play to Chris Sanders in the fourth quarter that set up a touchdown drew cheers from a crowd of 35,872.

Al Del Greco kicked field goals of 49, 53 and 24 yards as the Oilers (6-9) played what likely was their final game in the Astrodom before moving to Tennessee. The Oilers' lease runs through the 1997 season, but Adams is expected to buy out the remaining portion and complete the move to Tennessee next season.

Packers 34, Saints 23 Brett Favre threw for 308 yards and four touchdowns as the Packers qualified for the NFL playoffs for a third straight year by beating the Saints on Saturday.

The victory also positioned the Packers (10-5) to clinch their first NFC Central championship since 1972.

Reggie White, the NFL's career leader with 157 sacks, had been expected to miss the rest of the year with an injured left hamstring. But he entered the game on the Packers' third defensive play.

Favre, who completed the first six passes he threw, advanced his claim for the NFL's MVP award by completing 12 of 18 passes for 203 yards and four touchdowns in the first half.

He completed 21 of 30 passes on the day. **Steelers 41, Patriots 27** Pittsburgh's defense is evoking memories of the famed "Steel Curtain" of the 1970s. No wonder the Steelers are talking Super Bowl.

Pittsburgh's league-leading defense scored twice and Neil O'Donnell threw a 62-yard touchdown pass to Ernie Mills with 1:28 left as the Steelers rallied to beat the New England Patriots 41-27 on Saturday in Pittsburgh.

The Steelers (11-4) blew a 12-point lead, but scored two touchdowns in the final 1:30 of each half to extend an NFL-leading eight-game winning streak, their longest since a nine-game streak in 1978-79.

O'Donnell threw two touchdown passes, Kordell Stewart had his first NFL rushing touchdown on a drive started by his two pass completions, and Brentson Buckner and Chris Oldham scored defensive touchdowns.



WEIGHT ADVANTAGE: 300-kilogram (660-pound) Emanuel Yarbrough of the United States prepares for attack against Fabrice Guenet of France at the amateur sumo world championships Sunday in Tokyo. Yarbrough won.

Gretzky Not Enough for Kings, as Leafs Romp

The Associated Press

Sergio Momesso ended a six-week scoring drought with two goals and Felix Potvin made a season-high 44 saves as the Toronto Maple Leafs beat the Los Angeles Kings, 6-3, for their third straight road victory.

The Kings, who have five losses and a tie against the Leafs in their last six meetings at the L.A. Forum, went nearly eight minutes before their first shot on goal and spotted Toronto a 3-0 lead on first-period power-play goals by Mike Gartner, Momesso and Paul DiFiore.

Wayne Gretzky set up goals by Eric Lacroix, Dimitri Khristich and Marty McSorley for the Kings.

Capitals 3, Rangers 2 The New York Rangers lost their second game in two nights on Saturday following a 10-game unbeaten streak, losing to the Washington Capitals, Jim Carey made 29 saves for the Capitals and Peter Bondra had a goal and an assist.

Sabres 3, Devils 2 Dixon Ward scored the game-winning at 12:23 of the third period to lead the Buffalo Sabres to victory over the New Jersey Devils.

Ward, recalled Tuesday from the Sabres' Rochester team in the American Hockey League, took a shot from the top of the left circle that deflected off the stick of Devils defenseman Scott Niedermayer past goaltender Martin Brodeur.

Flyers 4, Canadiens 2 In Montreal, Rod Brind'Amour scored two goals to lift the Philadelphia Flyers over the Montreal Canadiens. Brind'Amour scored in the first and third periods for the Flyers, who are 10-

2-0 in their last 12 games.

Braves 3, Flames 3 Dave Reid scored three goals and Jozef Stumpel added a goal and two assists as the Boston Bruins defeated Calgary to end the Flames' three-game unbeaten streak.

Islanders 3, Whalers 3 In New York, Wendel Clark scored with 16.9 seconds left in regulation as the New York Islanders tied the Hartford Whalers.

For the second straight night, Brendan Shanahan scored twice for the Whalers.

Panthers 7, Lightning 2 Rob Niedermayer, Jody Hull and Jesse Belanger scored power-play goals as the league-leading Florida Panthers beat the Tampa Bay Lightning 7-2.

Blues 3, Sharks 2 Brett Hull, recently troubled by the flu, came back to score two goals and lead the St. Louis Blues to victory over the San Jose Sharks.

NHL ROUNDUP

Hockey League, took a shot from the top of the left circle that deflected off the stick of Devils defenseman Scott Niedermayer past goaltender Martin Brodeur.

Flyers 4, Canadiens 2 In Montreal, Rod Brind'Amour scored two goals to lift the Philadelphia Flyers over the Montreal Canadiens. Brind'Amour scored in the first and third periods for the Flyers, who are 10-

SCOREBOARD

BASKETBALL

NBA STANDINGS

EASTERN CONFERENCE

ATLANTIC DIVISION

Team	W	L	Pct	GB
Orlando	10	5	.667	—
New York	10	5	.667	—
Atlanta	12	0	.750	—
Boston	10	10	.500	—
Washington	10	10	.500	—
New Jersey	9	11	.455	—
Philadelphia	3	17	.150	13 1/2

CENTRAL DIVISION

Team	W	L	Pct	GB
Chicago	19	3	.855	—
Indiana	11	9	.550	7 1/2
Atlanta	11	13	.450	9 1/2
Cleveland	10	11	.476	10 1/2
Charlotte	11	12	.476	10 1/2
Detroit	9	14	.391	12 1/2
Milwaukee	6	13	.310	15 1/2
Toronto	7	17	.292	17 1/2

WESTERN CONFERENCE

NORTHWEST DIVISION

Team	W	L	Pct	GB
Houston	17	6	.739	—
Utah	13	7	.652	—
San Antonio	10	10	.500	—
Denver	10	11	.476	—
Dallas	9	11	.450	—
Phoenix	6	13	.310	—
Portland	3	20	.130	14 1/2

PACIFIC DIVISION

Team	W	L	Pct	GB
Seattle	15	7	.682	—
Los Angeles	14	7	.667	—
Portland	11	10	.524	—
L.A. Lakers	12	10	.545	—
Phoenix	9	11	.450	—
Golden State	8	14	.364	—
L.A. Clippers	0	15	.000	14 1/2

FRIDAY'S RESULTS

Team	Score	Team	Score
Boston	23	34	10
San Antonio	21	24	31

T. Pickens 7-11 2-4 16, Shaquille 6-14 2-12

15, B. Randle 11-18 2-8 21, F. 8-12 5-13 2

11, B. Randle 11-18 2-8 21, F. 8-12 5-13 2

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TOP 25 COLLEGE RESULTS

How the top 25 teams in The Associated Press college basketball poll fared this week:

1. Kansas (6-0) beat Indiana 91-65, Villanova

7-11 beat Temple 62-54, Massachusetts 64-

0 beat North Carolina-Wilmington 77-71, A. Ar-

izona (8-0) beat Texas-El Paso 90-70, K. New-

York (5-1) beat Florida State 94-82, K. New-

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MAJOR COLLEGE SCORES

American U. 89, Howard U. 49

